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No. 1234.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1179.)



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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923

SITUATION AND AREA

Mauritius lies off the coast of Africa, in the South Indian Ocean, some 500 miles East of Madagascar, between $57^{\circ}18'$ and $57^{\circ}48'$ E. long., and $19^{\circ}50'$ and $20^{\circ}31'$ S. lat. Its official time is four hours fast on Greenwich (Ordinance 6 of 1906). Its extreme length is 38 miles, its extreme breadth 29 miles; and its area covers 720 square miles=460,800 acres. The density of population is very high, being a little over 500 persons per square mile for the whole Island.

The largest town is Port Louis, the chief port and administrative capital, which has a population of about 50,000. The towns of the interior are all of recent growth. Curepipe, the residential capital, which lies at an altitude of 1,800 feet, situated at the highest part of the central plateau, has about 20,000 inhabitants. The smaller towns of Vacoas, Phoenix, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin are situated at lower levels on the same plateau. The principal towns and villages in country districts are Mahebourg, Rose Belle, Souillac, St. Pierre, Moka, Flacq and Pamplemousses.

The island is essentially of volcanic origin, although signs of an older formation are noticeable at some places (R. Thompson—1880). Its age is difficult to estimate owing to the misleading nature of the effects of cyclones and floods on its rocks. The deep river gorges, cut in hard basalt, point to considerable age, but all that can be said is that it is probably older than its immediate neighbours, Réunion and Rodrigues, and certainly more stable. (J. S. Gardiner).

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands the nearest of which is 230 miles, the most northerly being about 1,200 miles away, 6° S. lat. Rodrigues, the largest, with an area of 42 square miles, and a population of 6,924—(3,441 males, 3,483 females), is 350 miles to the East of Mauritius, while lesser islands of some importance comprise Agalega, the Carcados Carajos group, and Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Archipelago.

At the Census of May, 1921, the population of the Lesser Dependencies was ascertained to be 1,810—(1,038 males, 772 females).

HISTORY

Mauritius is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese in the beginning of the sixteenth century—probably between 1507 and 1512, but not later than 1527, when the island is shown on an official map under the name of *Santa Apollonia*, borne in common with the other islands known later as the Mascarenes (Réunion and Rodrigues) after the great navigator Dom Pedro Mascarenhas.

The Portuguese named the island *Itha da Cimos*, or *Swan Island*, from the big birds resembling swans found on shore.

There is no record of any permanent settlement by the Portuguese who, for nearly a century, only used the Island as a port of call for repairs and supplies.

The Island was still entirely uninhabited when, on the 18th September, 1598, a Dutch squadron of five vessels anchored in the South Eastern Port to which the Commander, Admiral Wybrandt Van Warwyk, gave his own name. He took possession of the Island on behalf of his Government and named it Mauritius, in honour of the Statholder, Prince Maurice de Nassau, but within fourteen days he set sail leaving nobody on shore.

In 1613 the English seaman Captain Castleton, of the *Pearl*, visited the Island, which he found unoccupied, but it was only in 1638 that a first attempt at colonisation was made. On the 6th May of that year Cornelisz Simonsy Gooyer, appointed Governor of Mauritius by the "Compagnie Neerlandaise des Indes," landed at Warwick-Haven or South Eastern Port. Fortifications, stores and dwelling houses were built at the place now called Old Grand Port, and thirteen families established themselves at the "13 Cantons" close by. These were followed by other settlers who established themselves in the neighbourhood, where Mahebourg now lies. Twenty years after, on the 16th July, 1658, the Island was abandoned, and was again reoccupied on the 26th July, 1664. During this second attempt at settlement, which extended over a somewhat longer period, the fortifications and houses erected originally and which had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1644 were rebuilt. At Flacq some efforts towards development and cultivation were made without much success whilst the district was only too successfully denuded of its ebony trees. A Royal Garden was created and new regions, such as Port North West, Black River, and perhaps Plaines Wilhems, were inhabited, but the settlement did not prosper, and, discouraged by the difficulties of the enterprise, the Dutch finally abandoned the Island in 1710. Their occupation was disastrous so far as natural resources were concerned as the colonists denuded the forests of their valuable timber and almost exterminated the interesting natural fauna.

On the 20th September, 1715, Guillaume Dufresne, commanding the French vessel *Le Chasseur*, arrived at Port Nord Ouest, took possession of the Island in the name of Louis XV, King of France, and called it "Isle de France." Settlement, however, was only effected six years later when, on the 23rd September, 1721, the Chevalier Jean Baptiste Garnier du Fougerai, commanding the *Triton* of St. Malo, resumed possession for the "Compagnie des Indes Orientales," after landing at Isle aux Tonneliers in Port Nord Ouest which he named Port Louis. He was accompanied by a few French families from the neighbouring island of Réunion, who had come to settle, and from that time Mauritius never ceased to be inhabited.

In 1735, Mahé de Labourdonnais succeeded M. Dumas as Governor. He was a man of rare capacity and it is not too much to say that by his own teaching and example he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of the Island. He left the Island in 1747 and his successors had but to follow the path opened out to them to reap profit and success.

Conditions, however, soon became difficult for the settlers owing to the ever-increasing exactions of the "Compagnie des Indes," and the French Government was forced to assume direct control of affairs in 1764.

Under the new Government the burden of administration was shared between the Governor and an Intendant. The first of these, Pierre Poivre, introduced spices, then so valuable, from the West Indies, and created in 1767 the now renowned Royal Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses on the site where Labourdonnais had erected in 1736 the fine dwelling house of "Mon Plaisir," and planted fruit and ornamental trees introduced from India and Europe.

In 1790 Mauritius was to a great extent preserved from the commotions of the French Revolution owing to the unpopularity of the decree of the National Convention abolishing slavery on which local agriculture solely depended. The Jacobin leaders and the agents of the Directoire sent to proclaim emancipation were expelled, a Colonial Assembly was elected and nearly all links with the mother country were severed for some time.

A period of intense military activity under General Decaen during the earlier part of the reign of Napoleon followed, when the French Privateers using Mauritius as a point of departure for their activities against British trade gained for the Island its reputation still enshrined in its motto as "The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean." The reputation it had acquired became at length a cause of peril. After several indecisive attempts against the island, the English, determined to root out this rival base, prepared for a vigorous attack in 1810 and, after a memorable fight, Mauritius was lost to the French and came under British rule, on the 3rd December, 1810.

The cession of the Isle de France and its dependencies to Great Britain having been confirmed by the Treaty of Paris, the Island, under its old name of Mauritius, definitely passed in 1814 under British rule and since then it has remained uninterruptedly a British possession.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical but, owing to the high elevation of the central plateau, a large part of the island enjoys a temperate and even bracing climate. The average temperature of this highland region is about 60° Fah. (15.5°C) and the maximum about 80° Fah. (26.6°C). The low-lying coastal region has naturally a higher average temperature ranging from 90° Fah. (32°C) to 70° Fah. (21°C).

Mauritius lies in the track of cyclones, which are liable to occur during the months of December to April. There has been no very severe cyclone since 1892.

The rainfall is irregular and varies according to the locality and elevation. In the central portion of the Island an average yearly rainfall of 175 inches is recorded, whereas regions where there is the lowest rainfall receive less than 40 inches. The rainfall of the coastal districts varies between 25 and 30 inches.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The year 1923 was on the whole satisfactory as regards trade, and the surplus balances on the 30th June, 1923, amounted to Rs. 8,678,408, exclusive of the unexpended balance of the proceeds of the special tax raised under Ordinance No. 36 of 1920 for general improvements, etc., together with accrued interest, amounting to Rs. 13,784,640.

Weather conditions were unfavourable during the growing season of the sugar-cane and caused an appreciable reduction of the crop, the final production figures for the 1923-24 campaign having been 201,550 Metric tons (198,356 English tons).

Sugar prices were, in the mean, remunerative, the average nett sale price having been Rs. 13.86 per 50 kilogrammes. The conditions under which local sugars were marketed were no doubt greatly improved by the operations of the Planters' Sugar Syndicate.

Labour difficulties were greatly reduced by the considerable progress made in the use of farm tractors, and by the introduction of labourers from India.

Mr. E. B. Denham, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, was appointed Colonial Secretary of Kenya in August 1923 and was replaced by Mr. E. A. Grannum, C.M.G., Receiver General.

The speech with which His Excellency the Governor (Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G.,) opened the Session of the Legislature on the 10th June last gives a clear and complete account of the general condition of the Colony during the year 1923 and is here inserted :—

“HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT.

“It is once more my privilege to open a Session of this Legislature, and I am fortunate in being able to do so under circumstances which point to a continuance of the prosperity and progress which have characterised the history of the Colony in recent years.

“The twelve months which have elapsed since I last stood on this dais have covered a period of general welfare and tranquillity. With the exception of a gale of some severity, which passed over the Island in January last and which did a moderate amount of damage, climatic conditions have been all that could be desired from the point of view of the agriculturalist.

Crop prospects.

“Though the sugar crop of 1923 was considerably below the average the appearance of our plantations to-day gives promise of one of the finest crops ever reaped in the Colony.

“As the subject of *Health* is of the most vital importance to our community, I will give that matter the first place in the short review of the state of the Colony which I now propose to lay before you.

Great improvement in health of Colony.

“The effects of the special measures which were started three years ago to improve the general health of the community are already manifesting themselves to a remarkable degree. The progress is, indeed, far greater than we had

"dared to hope, and I venture to quote a few figures showing the steady amelioration of our vital statistics in recent years :—

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
" Mean Death-Rate for the whole island ...	35.5*	32.3	40.3	34.5	28.5
" Excess or otherwise, of Births over Deaths	-131*	+1,018	-799	+988	+3,101

"The improvement in the health of Port Louis is equally striking :—

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
" Mortality in Port Louis ...	2,605*	1,897	2,723	2,173	1,738

"The fact that the rainfall during 1923 was below the average may have had something to do with the reduction of diseases due to humidity, but there can be no doubt that the steady reduction of the mortality and the growth of the population, shown during the past three years, must be due, to a large degree, to the energetic measures which have been taken during that period to improve our sanitary conditions. We are strengthened in believing that such is the case when we note that during the first months of the present year the death-rate continues to show a steady reduction in spite of the fact that the rainfall has, in many parts of the island, been far above the average. We have, in fact, to go back 44 years to find a death-rate as low as that recorded for April last. I feel sure that credit will be ungrudgingly given to the Officers of the Medical and Health Department for their instrumentality in contributing to such satisfactory results.

Campaign against hook-worm.

"To the success of the campaign against ankylostomiasis, which has been conducted during the past two years, must also be ascribed much of the improved health among the people of those districts in which action has been taken. I know that the whole Colony is grateful to the International Health Board for the help that has been given to us in that connection, and I trust that there will be no relaxation, in the future, of the consistent and continuous efforts which are required to obtain lasting and radical results in this connection.

High rate of Infant Mortality.

"Notwithstanding the general improvement in the death-rate, infant-mortality is still terribly high. Children under five years of age accounted last year for one third of the total number of deaths, and this high proportion shows how very urgent is the need for the better care of maternity cases and of new-born infants. The Council will be invited to make special provision in that connection.

"The Legislature will also be asked to devote a considerable sum to the improvement of our hospital for Mental cases. A thorough re-organisation of the whole institution is required, so as to bring to those afflicted ones, who are detained there, increased comfort and greater hopes of recovery.

* After deduction of deaths due to the great epidemic of influenza.

Expenditure out of the "Improvement and Development Fund." "The Improvement and Development Fund, which was constituted three years ago, has provided the means for carrying out a number of other measures which are conducive to the general promotion of health among our people. That Fund, which originally amounted to about Rs. 14,000,000 still stands at almost the same figure, although we have, in the interval, spent more than Rs. 2,500,000 out of it. The money contributed by the sugar-planters was very profitably invested and we have, so far, been able to do little more than spend the income of the Fund. From that source, we have, during the past two years, spent about Rs. 900,000 on the improvement of the water supplies in the country districts.

Improvement of water supplies. "Twenty-four different localities now enjoy pure water in lieu of the heavily polluted liquid which their people used to be obliged to consume. Much still remains to be done before adequate supplies of pure water are assured to the whole population of the island, but there is good reason to hope that this desirable consummation will in time be attained.

"The scheme for providing Port Louis with water from the Mare-aux-Vacoas has been held in suspense pending a test of results that may be obtained from the chlorination of the water from the Grand River. The chlorinating plant is expected to be ready for operations in two or three months' time, and we will then be in a position to say whether it will be necessary or not to incur the large outlay that would be entailed by bringing water from the Mare-aux-Vacoas.

New Leper Asylum. "I am happy to be able to record the fact that the lepers have at last been transferred from their old and inadequate quarters to an up-to-date Asylum at Pamplemousses. Although the expenditure under this head has been considerable it is a consolation to know that these unfortunate people are now located in healthy and cheerful surroundings, where they can enjoy such happiness as may be obtainable under their terrible affliction. I take this opportunity of recording, once more, our heartfelt thanks to those admirable Sisters of Charity who are devoting their noble lives to these pitiful sufferers.

"The improved health of Port Louis is undoubtedly due to the progressive measures that are being taken by the sanitary authorities in various directions. The population is evidently becoming alive to the benefits to be derived from the orderly disposal of house refuse and the avoidance of conditions that are favourable to the breeding of mosquitoes. There seems to be reason to believe that the day is not far distant when Port Louis will be as healthy as any other city of its size in the tropics. The tarring of some of the main streets and the steady improvements in buildings are contributing to make the capital gradually worthy of the Colony.

Improvement of the Harbour. "Questions relating to the improvement of our port occupied much of the attention of the last Council, and a Resolution was finally adopted providing for dredging the harbour to a depth of 32 feet and for the provision of

"certain deep-water quays. The total expenditure has been estimated at about Rs. 4,000,000, and it is proposed that the money should be provided by the Improvement and Development Fund. These proposals have been submitted to the Secretary of State and are awaiting his decision.

Workmen's dwellings.

"The solicitude of the Council for the improvement of the conditions under which live the poorer classes of Port Louis was clearly shown by the alacrity with which it authorised a loan of a million rupees for the provision of workmen's dwellings. This scheme is one which is very near my heart, and it is, I am sure, a satisfaction to everyone to note the rapidity with which the attractive suburb at Cassis is springing up. The improved health of everyone living there is clearly manifest, and applications for cottages are far in excess of our capacity to meet them. The population of the village is already considerable, and I hope to hear, in the days to come, that it has become ten times as great. There is no truer saying that "a man lives up to or down to the standard of his dwelling." The pretty gardens around the cottages and the efforts of the occupants to rise to their surroundings are evidences of the strong desire of our people to attain a higher social status and especially to obtain improved conditions for their children. Any judicious help given to them in this direction will assuredly tend to the general welfare of the Colony and to a happy community of interests between the various classes of our population.

Industrial Schools.

"The Industrial School at Plaine Lauzun has now been thoroughly established, and I trust that Honourable Members will show their interest in this Institution by visiting it now and then. Some fifty lads are now in training there and are rapidly acquiring a knowledge of various trades of daily utility. A handsome building containing offices and lecture rooms has just been completed and arrangements are being made for officers of the Public Works Department to give there, in the evenings, lectures and instruction to artisans and others on a number of professional subjects. The Technical School at Port Louis, which was established four years ago, continues to produce excellent results, and large numbers of boys from the primary schools are attending it.

"An Industrial School has also recently been created at Beau Bassin in the buildings of the Barkly Asylum, and is already proving a marked success. The boys who used to form the so-called 'Industrial School' at Rose Hill have been drafted into this new Institution, and anyone visiting the place will be most favourably impressed by the improved physique and general condition of those waifs and strays. This school is also giving technical instruction to boys from the Primary Schools of Rose Hill and Beau Bassin.

Brick and Tile factory.

"The Brick and Tile Factory at Calebasses has now thoroughly proved its value. An additional kiln has recently been added, and the establishment is now able to produce about 80,000 bricks a month. The greater part of them

"are now being used in the construction of dwellings in the Model Village, and it has already been clearly proved that building in bricks is the cheapest, coolest, and most suitable of all forms of construction. I venture to prophesy that the day is not far distant when the use of bricks will become general in Mauritius. With the arrival of the machinery which has been ordered for our brickfield the output will be greatly increased and the enterprise will then be in a position to accept orders from private parties.

Government dairy.

"It is with satisfaction that I am able to draw attention to the success that has attended the project for the establishment of a Government dairy at Curepipe. A handsome byre on modern lines has been erected, and 50 fine cows of the Holstein breed are now installed there. Notwithstanding all prognostications to the contrary the results of the dairy during the past $2\frac{1}{2}$ years may, I think, be taken to prove conclusively that our highlands in the centre of the island are well fitted for the raising of cattle, and that milch-cows, under proper conditions, thrive remarkably well there. The quantity of milk of high quality that is being yielded by our cows is entirely satisfactory. The whole of the produce is now being utilised in the various hospitals and institutions. I venture to express the hope that this scheme will be largely extended so that an absolutely pure supply of milk may be secured for the use of infants and invalids at Curepipe and elsewhere.

Amendment of the Labour law.

"In order to meet the wishes of the Government of India, a most important measure, affecting the conditions of labour generally, was passed during the last session of this Council. All penal clauses in the Labour Law were repealed, and everything savouring of compulsion was removed. I am happy to say that, owing to the liberal spirit of the planters, this measure has been put into force with a minimum of friction, a fact which redounds greatly to the credit of all employers of labour in this Colony.

Prospects of the sugar industry through the reduction of the rate of Imperial Preference.

"We are thankful to be able to note that the main industry of the island continues to be in a very prosperous condition. The prices obtained for the last crops were highly satisfactory and good profits have been made. Signs are apparent, however, that less favourable circumstances may be ahead. The recent reduction of the preference in the Home markets, hitherto granted by the Imperial Government, is causing much anxiety in the minds of our planters. Fears are entertained that the product of this Colony may be gradually shut out from its natural market and that it will be unable to compete against foreign beet-sugar. It is felt that a recurrence of the old unfair conditions, under which the British sugar-producing Colonies struggled against bounty-fed beet-sugar until they were almost ruined, would be a disaster and it is earnestly hoped that a fair and adequate degree of help from the Mother Country will always be forthcoming.

Colony's offer of
preference to the
United Kingdom.

"In this connection I feel sure that the recent decision of the Imperial authorities to reduce by more than 50% the preferential rates on sugar will have no effect on the intention of this Colony to give to certain British industries the substantial degree of preference in customs duties which was promised last year. A Bill to that effect will be among the first to be presented to the Council at its next meeting, and although its provisions may entail a substantial degree of loss to the Revenue of this Colony, that loss will be cheerfully borne as evidence of the desire of Mauritius to assist the industries in the United Kingdom which are now struggling under difficulties attributable to the Great War.

Resumption of
Indian
Immigration.

"The year under review will be notable for the fact that the immigration of labourers from India was resumed after a lapse of fourteen years. The conditions offered by this Colony to Indian immigrants

Great advantages
offered.

"are so extraordinarily liberal that every objection against the system which formerly prevailed in this connection has been removed. Bonuses are given, free passages granted, family life encouraged, and nothing in the shape of a contract is required. Every immigrant on arriving here is as free as any other British subject in the land and enjoys every civil and political privilege. Work is guaranteed to them at the rates that are current throughout the Colony, and everything is done by the Protector of Immigrants to safeguard their interests. Notwithstanding these remarkable advantages only some 680 labourers with their families, numbering altogether 1,236 souls, have arrived from India during the past twelve months. It is greatly to be regretted that certain political influences in India should, apparently, persist in dissuading people, who are now struggling under adverse circumstances, from coming to this country where hundreds of thousands of their compatriots have already found wealth, education and political importance. Negotiations with the Government of India for an extension of the term during which emigration is to be permitted are still in progress and will, I trust, shortly be concluded.

Irrigation schemes.

"Closely connected with the main industry of the Colony are the important irrigation schemes which have been in progress in recent years. The effects of the great reservoir at La Ferme are adequately realising the anticipations on which the project was based. The 'La Nicolière' scheme is making excellent progress and it is hoped that a certain quantity of water will be available for distribution next year. The Council will be asked to authorise a further loan of one million rupees for the continuation of the work, and it is believed that the original estimated total cost of Rs. 4,000,000 will not be exceeded. Good progress is also being made with the construction of a third great reservoir at Midlands. When these important works shall have been completed, a large area, which is now unfit for the production of sugar cane, will be available for that purpose. I cannot pass away from this subject of irrigation without paying a tribute to the energy and capacity shown by Mr. de Segrays, the Director of Public Works, in that connection.

“ Important experiments in relation to the effects of irrigation on our cane lands have been in progress for nearly three years at Médine, and the deductions that may, before long, be derived, from those experiments will certainly be of great interest to our sugar-planters. The keenness shown in this and in many other directions by the Director of Agriculture and his staff are cordially recognised.

Sugar Planters' Syndicate.

“ A Bill was passed during the last Session to continue the existence of the Sugar Planters' Syndicate. This Association has abundantly proved its great value to our leading industry, and enables the voice of sugar-growers of Mauritius to be heard in the world's markets in a far more powerful tone than when every planter made his own bargains individually. I shall always be glad to think that I was not a stranger to the inception of this very important scheme.

Phytalus Smithi.

“ The ‘Phytalus Smithi’ continues to be a somewhat threatening cloud on the horizon of the sugar-planter. No less than 43,000,000 of those pernicious little beetles were captured last year by the organized bands employed for that purpose, but, although increases of the pest have been noticed in certain districts, there is every reason to believe that it will continue to be satisfactorily kept in check.

Necessity for subsidiary industries.

“ My desire to see the development of subsidiary industries has never slackened during the eight years that I have been in charge of the affairs of this island, and as the moment of my departure is probably approaching. I feel that I cannot too strongly reiterate the views that I have often expressed in the past. So long as Mauritius depends, as she does at present, entirely on one industry, the position of its people must always be more or less precarious. Although we believe that, in the event of less prosperous conditions in the sugar industry, much could be done by way of concentration of factories and the greater use of mechanical appliances, there can be no doubt that if the island possessed other valuable industries besides sugar, the position of its people would be far safer and more hopeful. It is for this reason that the object of what is probably my “swan song” is to adjure the capitalists of Mauritius to give their earnest attention to various industries which appear to be suited to the conditions of our island, and which have proved to be remunerative and successful in countries where the conditions of soil and climate closely resemble those of Mauritius. I know that efforts are, here and there, being made to establish plantations of cocoanut and fibre, and that some of these are already proving their success. But I feel that these efforts are on far too small a scale to be of any avail in the event of a serious fall in the value of sugar, and it is to be feared that a long period of stress and difficulty may have to be traversed before such industries could be of appreciable support to the life of the Colony. I suggest that it is unwise to postpone the necessary experiments and efforts until times of distress and

"depression are actually upon us, and I venture to urge that now is the time, when capital is abundant, to take the necessary steps to safeguard the future. I cannot too strongly urge the advisability of extending without delay our cultivations of fibre—be they of sisal or of the local hemp—, and it is therefore, with entire willingness, that I shall, at an early meeting of the Council, support a petition that has been addressed to the Government by the aloë-fibre planters of the Colony for a moderate amount of pecuniary assistance to enable them to develop their industry.

Sisal fibre
plantations.

"Despite the scanty encouragement that has been given in certain quarters to the Government's experiments in the cultivation of sisal, the prospects of the small plantation at Cassis are, I believe, fairly promising. The land is not as suitable as it might be, and the small area of the venture precludes pecuniary profits. But the 'Corona' fibre-machine is now being installed in the neighbourhood of the plantation, and it is hoped that the presence of this factory, with its immense possibilities, may encourage the owners of many thousands of acres of adjacent lands, which are now producing nothing, to grow sisal and to work the factory on a co-operative basis. It has been proved in every tropical country that sisal can only be profitably produced on large areas and unless this project be taken up in a hopeful spirit by the adjacent owners of land it is foredoomed to failure. I may say, in this connection, that there is hardly a British territory, within the tropics, of which its Government has not considered it wise to make considerable efforts and to spend much money in trying to encourage the establishment of a sisal industry. In some cases those experiments have failed, in others they have proved to be a source of much wealth. I most sincerely hope that the very small efforts made by my Government in that direction may find themselves ultimately in the latter category.

Tobacco factory.

"Another of the minor industries which I commend to the earnest attention of landowners is the production of tobacco. The experimental efforts of the Government in that direction, during the past four years, have been so successful that a notable area of land is now devoted to the production of leaf. The factory that is being managed by the Department of Agriculture is now so well equipped that several tons of excellent tobacco, equal in every way to the product imported from Réunion, have been produced. Machine-made cigarettes are also now being turned out. Unfortunately certain parties who are deeply interested in maintaining the very profitable monopoly which they have hitherto exercised as regards the sale of foreign tobacco, appear to be bent on boycotting the product of Mauritius. Sales from the Government Factory have practically ceased, and this budding industry, which was so full of promise, is menaced with extinction. The Council will be asked, at an early date, to take such measures as will prevent so untoward a result. The magnitude of the matter will be realised when I state that the imports of tobacco from Réunion exceed 130,000 kilos a year, valued at about a million and a half of rupees.

Rodrigues.

"The condition of our chief dependency, Rodrigues, continues to be highly satisfactory. It enjoys a phenomenally low death-rate and the population is increasing to such a degree that it is beginning to advance claims for direct representation in the Legislature. The recent establishment of a branch of the Department of Agriculture is likely to have an appreciable effect on the resources of the island and the prospects of stock-raising, especially as regards the breeding of mules and donkeys, are extremely promising.

Amendment of the
Liquor laws.

"I regret to say that the effects of the Liquor Law, passed in 1922 and which were so promising at first, have recently been largely neutralised by the substitution of strongly alcoholised wines for the rum of local production. The excessive consumption of these objectionable wines reached such a stage that, at one of its last meetings, the Council passed a law raising very greatly the import duties on those liquors. In the same way that the consumption of rum has been greatly decreased by making it 'weaker, dearer and harder to get,' so do we now hope that the same measures will reduce to reasonable dimensions the excessive consumption of highly alcoholised wines. The Council will be invited, at an early meeting, to consider proposals for amending certain provisions of the existing liquor laws which need strengthening.

Estimates of
Revenue and
Expenditure.

"The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the forthcoming financial year have been framed, as usual, on prudent and conservative lines, and I commend them to the careful consideration of the Legislature.

Remarkable
financial situation.

"The financial position of the Colony continues to be most satisfactory. Although the expenditure on special services and improvements during the past twelve months has been on a considerable scale, it has failed to keep pace with the expansion of the Revenue. Trade has evidently been highly satisfactory, and the Customs receipts have been far in excess of the estimate. So great has been this excess that the Revenue for 1923-24 will exceed the expenditure by nearly 2½ millions of rupees. The balance to the credit of the Colony at the conclusion of this financial year is therefore likely to approach Rs. 11,000,000 without taking into account more than thirteen millions of rupees which are still lying to the credit of the 'Improvement and Development Fund.'

Proposed reduction
of taxation.

"It is not often that a Colonial Treasury can complain of being incommoded by its assets, but such is almost the case with us. In spite of liberal expenditure, on a large number of improvements, our surplus balances steadily increase. The moment has evidently arrived for relieving the community, in some degree, of the taxation to which it now submits, and it is with great satisfaction that I may announce to-day that the Secretary of State has authorised me

“to invite the Council to repeal the law, passed in 1922, under which certain import duties were considerably increased. The degree of preference which it is proposed to grant to certain British manufacturers will also entail a substantial reduction of customs duties on various articles of common use. These measures are expected to entail a loss to the Revenue of about Rs. 550,000 per annum, and provision for this reduction has been made in the Draft Estimates. It appears to me and to my advisers that it would be prudent to postpone the consideration of any other proposals for the further reduction of taxation until the effects of the recent reduction of the advantages lately enjoyed in the English market by our main industry can be ascertained.

Railway
Department.

“The arrangement made last year, by which the accounts of the Railways were kept separately from those of the general administration, has been made definite. The total ordinary expenditure of the Railway department, in 1924-25, has been estimated at Rs. 4,377,293, and the revenue at Rs. 5,108,000. Out of the anticipated surplus, a ‘Renewals Fund’ will be formed, so that money may be available in the future for the proper maintenance and improvement of the system without necessitating sudden increases of rates. In the meantime, the Council will be asked to vote Rs. 646,971 from our accumulated surplus for the provision of additional rolling stock and other improvements which are urgently required. I trust that it may be possible at an early date to put into effect many of the recommendations which the recent Commission, appointed to enquire into the administration of the Railway Department, considered it advisable to make for the better working of the system.

Military
Contribution.

“Provision is made in the Draft Estimates for the usual scale of Military Contribution. Mauritius is one of the few British Colonies which enjoys the distinction of paying to the War Office a subsidy in consideration of the maintenance of a garrison of Imperial Troops. The contribution was arranged on the understanding that a considerable force would be stationed in the island, and the subsidy was based on a scale of $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the Colony’s Revenue.

Large payments
to the Imperial
Government.

“With the growth of the financial operations of the Administration, the contribution has increased in proportion, and the percentage now amounts to a very large sum. These very important subsidies to the War Office have been paid annually by this Government with so little ostentation that few persons outside Mauritius appear to be aware of the fact that, during the past twenty years, this Colony has contributed directly to the British Exchequer a sum of more than eleven and a half millions of rupees (£766,666). I know that I am voicing the sentiments of the Colony when I say that none in Mauritius grudges this contribution to the Mother-Country and that it is given with patriotic sentiments. Nevertheless, there is a

“growing feeling that the magnitude of the payment should not be forgotten when the relations between Mauritius and the United Kingdom happen to come under consideration. It is also thought in many quarters that, in view of the disproportion of the payment to the strength of the garrison, it would be more appropriate if the contribution were to be divided between the Army and the Navy.”

Extension of Governor's term of office. “In the course of the last session of the Council, a Resolution was unanimously adopted, praying that

“His Majesty the King might be pleased to extend for a second time my term of office in this Colony. The members of the Civil Service, by petition, did me the honour of making the same request. No definite decision, so far as I am aware, appears yet to have been arrived at on the matter, but whether my time in this Colony is to be extended or whether I am soon to hand over my office to a successor, I can assure the Council, the Civil Service, and the whole population that I shall ever retain in my heart the deepest feelings of regard and affection for this charming island in which I have already spent more than eight years of my life.

“To the Members of this Council, to my colleagues of all ranks in the Public Service, and to everyone who has given me their helpful encouragement and loyal advice in the arduous work of administration, I desire to tender my most earnest and grateful thanks.

“On behalf of His Majesty the King, I now open this Session of the Legislature.”

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The estimated population of the Island on the 31st December 1923, was 381,678, or an increase of 4,084 on the previous years, figures and of 5,193 on last Census figures (May 20, 1921).

The number of births and deaths registered during the year was 13,879 and 10,778, respectively.

The birth-rate in the General Population was 40.9 and in the Indian population 34.9 per mille, as against 39.9 and 35.9 respectively, for the previous year.

The death-rates per 1,000 in the two populations for 1923 were 29.6 and 28.1, as against 35.5 and 33.3 respectively for 1922.

The highest death-rate for 1923 is shown in Grand Port and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems. The mortality in 1923 was remarkably low. The death-rate for the whole Colony (28.5 per mille) is the lowest since 1891, and for Port Louis the rate (34.1 per mille) is the lowest since 1880. The number of deaths due to malaria and malarial cachexia (highest death-producing factors in Mauritius) was 1,979 as against 3,526 the year before. The

proportion to total deaths is 18.3%. The next high causes of death are pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia—1,393 in 1923 as against 1,538 in 1922—and diseases of early infancy—1,026 in 1923 as against 1,002 in 1922.

There were 139 cases of plague during the year, of which 118 proved fatal; the figures for 1922 being 98 and 75 respectively. The largest number of cases was, as usual, in Port Louis (117). The percentage of deaths was 84.8.

There were 150 cases of Enteric fever registered in the Island as against 224 in the previous year.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) gives a ratio of 139.4 per thousand live-births, as against 147.9 in 1922. There were 1,557 still-births registered during the year, corresponding to a rate of 112.2 per thousand live-births, as against 120.3 in 1922.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following statement shows in a tabular form the number of cases treated in the public hospitals and at the dispensaries for the last five years:—

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	Average
Hospital admissions	26,820	22,132	19,127	19,337	17,069	20,897.0
Dispensaries ...	78,546	65,302	60,671	85,638	53,225	68,676.4
Outdoor cases ...	5,300	4,225	5,066	6,491	12,032	6,622.8
	<u>110,666</u>	<u>91,659</u>	<u>84,864</u>	<u>111,466</u>	<u>82,326</u>	<u>96,196.2</u>

These figures show a decrease as regards hospital admissions and dispensary cases and an increase as regards outdoor cases for 1923 as compared with 1922. The total number of cases is much below that for 1922 and the average of the five-year period 1919-23.

ASYLUMS

The total number of persons certified insane on 31st December, 1923, was 708, or 34 less than the year before. This represents a ratio of insane to total population of 1 in 539 or 18.5 per 10,000.

The admissions into the Lunatic Asylum numbered 194. They are classified into: first admissions 88, second admissions 6, readmission from probation 38, readmission from Barkly Asylum Lunatic Branch Wards 31 and from Victoria Hospital 5 (including 2 from Lying-in-Ward), and 26 admitted on interim order but found not insane after examination by Commissioners in Lunacy.

The number of inmates left on 31st December, 1923, was 457 (253 males and 204 females) at the Lunatic Asylum, and 89 (47 males and 42 females) in the Lunatic Branch Wards.

At the Leper Asylum there were 37 patients at the beginning of the year (males 25, females 12). There were 16 admissions during the year (8 males and 8 females), 2 deaths and 14 discharges. There remained 37 lepers (21 men and 16 women) at the end of the year. The construction of the new Leper Asylum has now been completed, and the transfer of the lepers was effected on the 1st February, 1924. The law relative to compulsory segregation of lepers will be brought into operation at an early date.

POOR RELIEF

Exclusive of the pauper cases treated at the public hospitals and dispensaries 558 paupers, as compared with 900 in 1922, received institutional relief during 1923 at the Barkly Asylum and different religious institutions.

2,104 paupers received pecuniary out-door relief permanently or temporarily, during 1923, as against 2,330 in 1922.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS

There were 1,642 persons committed to prison during the year, being 859 less than in the previous year. Of the total 1,579 were males and 63 females.

The total number in custody on 31st December, 1923, was 358 as against 434 in the preceding year.

There were 8 deaths among prisoners during the year. 21 prisoners were subjected to corporal punishment. There was no execution. The number of juvenile offenders was 58 as against 79 in the previous year.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The cases reported to the Police numbered 21,063 as against 19,108 for 1922 in connection with which 12,309 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magisterial Courts. 17 cases were sent for trial before the Supreme Court as against 29 in 1922.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The total revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1923, amounted to Rs. 23,547,734, which is Rs. 2,052,260 below the revenue for the preceding year, but Rs. 4,348,280 above the average revenue for the preceding five years.

The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 22,031,176 (exclusive of the sum of Rs. 13,784,640 which has been definitely transferred from Surplus Balances to the special account "Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund").

The Surplus Balances on the 30th June, 1922, amounted to Rs. 20,946,490, from which should be deducted the sum of Rs. 13,784,640 referred to in the preceding paragraph, thus leaving a balance of Rs. 7,161,850 which, added to the surplus of *normal* revenue over *normal* expenditure during the year, viz.: Rs. 1,516,558, brings the Surplus Balances on the 30th June, 1923, to Rs. 8,678,408.

Of the expenditure for 1922-23, Rs. 5,268,118 were spent on personal emoluments and Rs. 16,763,058 under other charges. The corresponding figures for 1921-22 were: personal emoluments Rs. 5,612,370 and other charges Rs. 20,735,288.

The decrease of Rs. 344,252 under personal emoluments is mainly due to the arrears of salaries as recommended by the Salaries Commission and approved by the Secretary of State having been paid in the year 1921-22.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years :—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1918-19	... Rs. 13,813,070	... Rs. 14,711,349
1919-20	... 18,605,596	... 19,422,903
1920-21	... 40,168,210*	... 24,729,540
1921-22	... 25,599,994	... 26,347,658
1922-23	... 23,547,734	... 22,031,176 †

PUBLIC DEBT

At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at £ 1,265,724 as compared with £ 1,269,124 at 30th June, 1922. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of £ 659,832 as compared with £ 585,860 at 30th June, 1922.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

The currency of the Colony consists of :—

- (1) The following Mauritius bronze and silver coins which are legal tender up to Rs. 5 :—
 - (a) Bronze : 1 cent, 2 cents and 5 cents.
 - (b) Silver : 10 cents, 20 cents.
- (2) The silver Rupee of India with its silver sub-divisions.
- (3) Nickel coins : 4 and 8 annas of India.
- (4) The Mauritius Government notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and R. 1.
- (5) Indian currency notes of Rs. 50, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5.

The average value of currency notes in circulation during the year was Rs. 19,175,588 as compared with Rs. 20,360,013 in 1921-22.

The average amount of silver held amounted to Rs. 9,296,338 as compared with Rs. 10,005,494 the average for 1921-22.

The investments (not including Depreciation Fund), which stood at Rs. 9,879,250 on 1st July, 1922, remained the same during the year. The Depreciation Fund was increased from Rs. 770,858 to Rs. 861,370. The Revenue (Interest on investments less addition to Depreciation Fund) was Rs. 418,948 and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a surplus of Rs. 861,370. Valuing the investments at the market rate on 30th June 1923, the surplus would be increased to Rs. 934,531.

Government Savings Banks are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June 1923 was 36,103 as against 36,001 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 5,590,934 as against Rs. 5,815,782 in the preceding year. The Savings Banks are largely made use of by the Indians, of whom at the 30th June, 1923, there were 15,150 depositors with Rs. 2,982,994 to their credit, as against 14,356 depositors with Rs. 2,700,479 to their credit in the preceding year.

Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent.

The private Banks are The Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India and a branch of the National Bank of South Africa.

* Includes Rs. 13,377,987 and Rs. 2,378,029 collected under Ordinances Nos. 36 and 37 of 1920, respectively (special export taxes on Sugar for general improvements, etc.)

† Exclusive of Rs. 13,784,640 transferred to the Mauritius Improvement and Development Fund.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE

The value of the trade for 1923, exclusive of Dependencies and omitting specie, was Rs. 146,677,496, showing a decrease of Rs. 21,468,654 on the preceding year.

The comparative values of imports and exports for 1913 and the last five years are as follows :—

Year		Imports		Exports		Total
—		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1913	...	36,607,671	...	32,291,706	...	68,899,377
1919	...	47,037,024	...	127,806,321	...	174,843,345
1920	...	86,371,153	...	127,497,305	...	213,868,458
1921	...	105,744,980	...	157,249,822	...	262,994,802
1922	...	77,039,447	...	91,106,703	...	168,146,150
1923	...	76,835,565	...	69,841,931	...	146,677,496

The value of the re-exports was Rs. 2,141,350.

Rs. 3,200,508 worth of specie were imported during the year, and Rs. 9,453,462 were exported.

The trade value in 1923 was Rs. 37,007,801 below the average value for the five preceding years, viz : Rs. 183,685,297, but was more than twice the trade value in 1913 (before the war) by Rs. 8,878,742.

The fall in trade, as compared with 1922, was mainly due to a large reduction in the sugar exports owing to a smaller crop, the value of the imports for the two years being practically the same, although the quantity of goods imported in 1923 was slightly larger than in the previous year.

IMPORTS

Imported foodstuffs, drink and tobacco fell from Rs. 36,675,594 in 1922 to Rs. 34,174,018 in 1923; while manufactured articles rose from Rs. 32,419,619 in 1922 to Rs. 35,461,532 in 1923, but the imports of machinery and implements fell from 5½ million rupees in 1922 to 2½ million rupees in 1923.

As in 1922, about two-thirds of the imports in 1923 came from the United Kingdom and India, the latter retaining its position at the head of the list of countries by a narrow margin. France maintained its position in the third place with a slight increase on the preceding year's figures.

The values of the imports from Madagascar, which is our principal source of supply for cattle, and from South Africa were nearly the same as in 1922, whilst increases are recorded from the United States of America, Japan and Germany. Large decreases are shown in the imports from Belgium and China.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were cotton and woollen goods, machinery, coal, hardware, soap and cigarettes; and from India grain, gunny bags, various oils, saltpetre, cotton piece goods, seeds and spices.

France is the principal source of supply for haberdashery, brimstone, cabinetware, perfumery, olive oil, indigo, wines in cases, claret in casks and tyres.

The chief imports from the Union of South Africa were wines, salted fish, oats and maize. The value of coals imported from South Africa fell from Rs. 3,065,888 in 1921 to Rs. 477,036 in 1922, and to Rs. 189,065 in 1923.

The principal imports from the United States were petroleum, motor cars, and tobacco.

EXPORTS

Sugar.—The following table shows the sugar exports for the last six years :—

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Kilos ...	183,221,889	302,826,129	182,464,726	229,224,689	292,744,249	223,051,061
Rupees ...	53,882,002	125,103,201	124,633,854	154,592,301	88,454,321	67,227,562

Other Domestic Exports.—Other exports than sugar are not of any considerable importance. Copra and poonac head the list with Rs. 171,094 in 1923, as compared with Rs. 105,720 in 1922 ; aloe fibre coming next with Rs. 164,112 in 1923, as compared with Rs. 385,754 in 1922.

The quantity and value of aloe fibre exported during each of the last six years are shown below :—

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Kilos ...	390,671	2,176,521	874,241	287,106	1,007,296	599,554
Rupees ...	140,135	782,285	248,140	100,234	385,754	164,112

Other exports are rum, undressed skins, coconut oil, &c.

SHIPPING

The following statement shows the number of vessels which entered and left the harbour during the last three years :—

Year	NUMBER OF VESSELS			
	Inwards		Outwards	
1921	...	229	...	234
1922	...	226	...	225
1923	...	207	...	207

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1923 was 928,493 tons : steamers 918,448 tons and sailing vessels 10,045 tons.

In the coastal trade with the Dependencies some 38 calls were made, with an aggregate of 14,794 tons.

The following steamship lines called at Port Louis although services are irregular and uncertain :—Union Castle Steamship Company, Limited ; British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited ; Messageries Maritimes ; Clan Line ; Ellerman-Harrison Line and the Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

The industries of the island are entirely agricultural ; there is no mineral wealth of any importance. The whole interests of the Colony are bound up in the sugar industry and practically the whole of the land suitable for growing sugar cane is under that crop. The area at present under cane cultivation is about 171,000 acres or about one-third of the total area of the Colony and the average production for the past five years nearly a quarter of a million tons. With the exception of British India, Mauritius is thus the largest sugar producer among the British possessions. Altogether there are

50 sugar factories ranging in productive capacity from 1,500 tons to 15,000 tons, the majority of which are modern factories, the standard of equipment being constantly improved.

A striking feature of the sugar industry in recent years has been the rapid increase in the area cultivated by Indians who are a preponderating element in the population, forming over two-thirds of the total.

At the end of 1923 the area cultivated by Indians was estimated to be 73,600 arpents (76,760 acres) or nearly 45% of the total cane cultivation, the figure having almost doubled since 1909.

Agricultural labour is almost exclusively Indian in origin and is derived from importations of indentured Indian labour which commenced after the abolition of slavery in 1835 and continued until 1910, when indentured immigration from India was prohibited. Immigration was, however, resumed, subject to certain conditions and on a restricted scale, for a period of twelve months ending on 31st May, 1924; and negotiations with the Government of India for an extension of this period are still in progress.

There were on the 31st December 1923, 19,253 immigrants settled in the Colony, divided into 13,639 males and 5,614 females, and including 556 new immigrants (393 males, and 163 females). The total number of labourers, including both immigrants and creoles, serving under written or verbal contract on estates was 18,876 on 31st December 1923.

The Indian population on Estates was estimated at 48,239 on 31st December 1923—i.e. 19,063 men, 12,813 women and 16,363 children.

The low quotations for sugar, coupled with the high cost of labour, have led since 1921 to a reduction of about 5,000 acres in the total area under cane cultivation. In facing the labour problem considerable attention was paid to mechanical cultivation, and a number of farm tractors of various types continues to be introduced into the Colony.

The Sugar Planters Syndicate, which was formed in 1920 and was reconstituted under Ordinance No. 7 of 1921, disposed of the local sugars to private buyers on a co-operative basis.

In 1919, the record year, the exports of sugar reached 302,826 tons, valued at Rs. 125,103,000. The quantity fell in 1920 to 182,465 tons but the value was Rs. 124,634,000. The value of the sugar exported in 1921 was Rs. 154,592,000 for 229,225 tons exported, the figures for 1922 and 1923 being Rs. 88,454,000 for 202,744 tons, and Rs. 67,227,000 for 223,051 tons respectively.

The countries to which the bulk of Mauritius sugar is exported are the United Kingdom and, to a smaller extent, India.

SUBSIDIARY INDUSTRIES

The introduction of agricultural industries other than sugar cane, so as to reduce the economic dependence of the Colony on a single industry, continues to receive attention, and the fall in the price of sugar has aroused real interest in various minor cultivations.

ALOE FIBRE

Aloe fibre is produced mainly from the leaves of *Furcraea Gigantea* (Mauritius hemp), a plant which grows wild all over the island, and ranked second amongst the domestic products of the Colony until the year 1923, when copra and poonac rose to the second place. The area under aloe is estimated at about 20,000 acres.

The high prices obtained for aloe fibre at the commencement of 1922, viz : about Rs. 600 per ton, were not maintained for long and, by the middle of that year, had fallen to Rs. 350 per ton—i.e. a figure only slightly above the cost of production. In 1923 market conditions were, on the whole, unfavourable.

The advisability of substituting Sisal for *Furcraea* is still receiving consideration. The Government Sisal plantation at Plaine Lauzun has been extended up to a total area of 60 acres, while a private plantation of about 300 acres has been established in the North of the Island.

COCONUTS

No extensions of any great importance occurred in connection with coconut plantations during the year, although there appears to be considerable scope for developments in relation to this industry in certain parts of the Island.

The copra production from the Lesser Dependencies amounted to about 800 tons.

TOBACCO

Efforts to develop the tobacco industry have been continued under the auspices of the Government during the year, and the system of permits for the cultivation of tobacco without payment of tax was continued. At the end of the year 1923, 163 acres were under cultivation.

The Government Tobacco Factory continued its operations during the year and new machinery in connection therewith was imported from England.

OTHER CROPS

Vanilla.—No developments in relation to vanilla have to be recorded during the year.

Tea.—The local tea industry is on the decline and locally grown tea is unable to compete with the imported article.

Food Crops.—The estimated area under food crops was practically the same as in the previous year—i.e. about 8,500 arpents. Importations of South African maize continue to affect adversely the local industry, which can hardly be expected to stabilize itself under these circumstances.

LIVE STOCK

The local stock raising industry continues to be very unfavourably influenced by the importation of cattle on a large scale from Madagascar at very low prices.

The Stock Farm of the Department of Agriculture has been maintained during the year but no sale of stock was held in 1923.

The experimental Dairy at Curepipe has been increased and is now housed in a permanent building designed and equipped on the most modern lines. At the Dairy, milk is now being produced in accordance with the dictates of modern sanitary methods, and

pure milk is being supplied to Victoria Hospital at Quatre Bornes, and to Civil Hospital at Port Louis. The Dairy now contains 50 Friesland cows.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

No particular progress has to be recorded during the year in connection with Co-operative Credit Societies.

On the 30th June, 1923, there were 36 Societies and the total membership amounted to 3,660, while the total working capital on the same date amounted to Rs. 442,873, or a decrease of Rs. 52,023 as compared with the year ended June 30th, 1922.

Other industries.—There are large engineering works in various parts of the Colony principally engaged in the readjustment and repair of sugar machinery. Apart from manufacturing industries concerned with the preparation of local produce there are few minor industries in Mauritius and it cannot be said that there are any signs of their number increasing in the near future.

The following table will be found of interest :

INDUSTRIES—(EXCLUSIVE OF AGRICULTURE)

Nature of Industry	Number of establishments or manufacturing factories	Approximate number of persons employed	Raw material used	Approximate output	
				Quantity	Annual Value
1. Engineering works	5	1,600	...	...	Rs. 2,000,000
2. Bakeries ...	65	300	Wheat Flour	3,000 T.	2,500,000
3. Docks, (landing, shipping, etc.)	4	1,700	...	...	1,000,000
4. Fisheries ...	...	1,500	Sea Fish	1,200 T.	500,000
5. Lime Burning ...	56	500	Coral	600 T.	20,000
6. Distilleries ...	3	30	Molasses	500,000 lit.	1,431,000
7. Electric Light and Power Supply	4	150	Hydraulic Power	...	.....
8. Salt ...	3	200	Sea water	1,500 T.	150,000
9. Leather Tanning...	2	30	Hides of some 8,000 oxen	...	170,000
10. Ice making ...	...	...	...	900 T.	125,000
11. Oil (ground nuts)...	2	...	...	50,000 lit.	100,000
12. Vinegar making...	...	...	Rum	18,000 lit.	8,000

Among minor industries may be mentioned biscuits, aerated water, furniture, charcoal, bricks, tiles, pottery, aloe ropes, vacoa bags and boot making.

Distilleries.—At present alcohol is produced mainly for consumption as Rum and the output was approximately 500,000 litres as against 1,750,000 litres in the previous year. The raw material used is the molasses produced in the cane sugar industry.

Unexpected difficulties have prevented, so far, the working of the Distillery and Etherification plant at St. Antoine Estate.

FORESTS

Public Departments were supplied during the year with 2,743 cords of firewood worth Rs. 27,857, and 552 cubic feet of timber valued at Rs. 5,394. The total value of these supplies was thus Rs. 33,251 as against Rs. 49,531 for the previous year.

The revenue derived from sales to the public on account of timber, fuel and minor forest produce during the year was Rs. 118,435 as against Rs. 227,007 during 1922, and the miscellaneous revenue Rs. 107 as against Rs. 194 in 1922.

FISHERIES

The fishing industry is one of some importance but the methods in use and the business in general still need organisation. The catch is entirely for local consumption and the fish market is poorly supplied with fresh fish, compared with the actual demand.

LEGISLATION

During the year 1923, 37 Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the most important of those which are likely to be of interest outside the Colony :—

The Gandia Ordinance, 1923, (No. 8), which prohibits the cultivation, importation, sale or possession of Gandia (*Cannabis Indica*), was introduced in consequence of a report from the Director of the Medical and Health Department that he was satisfied that, while the average number of male persons confined at any one time in the Lunatic Asylum was about 300, 99 admissions during the last 10 years were solely attributable to the consumption of this substance and that in 20% of all cases of insanity in males Gandia had been the exciting cause. The medicinal preparations specified in the Schedule are excepted as they appear in the British Pharmacopœia and are occasionally prescribed.

The Municipality (Amendment) Ordinance, 1923, (No. 13), which involves a number of changes of great importance to the Municipality, the principal being :—

- (1) The abolition of the system of four wards and the return to the old "scrutin de liste" or single general roll for the whole of Port Louis ;
- (2) The vesting in the Municipal Council of the power to elect its own Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the only restriction being that such appointment must be confirmed by the Governor ;
- (3) The extension of the qualification of voters at Municipal elections to persons in receipt of a yearly salary of Rs. 1,200, and to guardians of minors who are owners of immoveable properties of the value of Rs. 500 ; and
- (4) The disqualifying of certain classes of convicted persons and of persons who have allowed judgment debts to remain unsatisfied, from being elected or continuing to sit as councillors.

The Reciprocal Enforcement of British Judgments Ordinance, 1923, (No. 14), under which a judgment obtained in a Superior Court in the United Kingdom, or in any part of His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom to which this Ordinance applies, may be registered in the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

The Treasury Bills Ordinance, 1923, (No. 20), which provides for the borrowing of money by the issue of Treasury Bills.

The Official Secrets Ordinance, 1923, (No. 22), which adapts to the Colony the Official Secrets Act, 1920, (10 & 11 Geo. 5 Ch. 75). It follows practically *verbatim* the lines of the English Act and of its Schedules except that Section 5 of the Act is omitted. This deals with the registration and regulation of persons carrying on the business of receiving postal packets. Such a business does not exist and is not likely to exist in the Colony.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Ordinance, 1923, (No. 24), the object of which is to help in checking cruelty to animals. By making half of the fine payable to the informer it was considered that more cases would be brought before the Magistrate.

The Veterinary Surgeons Ordinance, 1923, (No. 27), which regulates the practice of Veterinary Surgery. Previous to the passing of this Ordinance there was no law in Mauritius dealing with Veterinary Surgeons.

The Railway (Amendment) Ordinance, 1923, (No. 30), the object of which is similar to that of Ordinance No. 22 of 1880, viz : to render it more difficult for passengers to defraud the Railway. It follows the lines of the latter Ordinance, which it repeals, but is more drastic: a fine of Rs. 50 is introduced in article 3, and increased penalties are throughout enacted for second or subsequent offences.

EDUCATION

At the close of the year there were 151 primary schools in the Colony: 57 Government and 94 denominational schools assisted by Government grants, of which 66 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 4 Hindoo and 3 Mohammedan. The average attendance was 22,538 as compared with 20,112 in 1922. The attendance of Indian children was 16,398 (boys 13,863, girls 2,535), an increase of 556 as compared with the previous year.

The total number of girls being educated in Primary Schools was 9,733 as against 9,274 in 1922.

During the year 181 candidates competed for the Boys' Scholarship Examination which gives admission to the Royal College. Of these 33 only passed. Six scholarships and six exhibitions were awarded. There were 140 students for the four Girls' Scholarships, of whom 32 passed.

592 candidates (287 men and 305 women) entered for Teachers' Examinations during the year, 127 of whom (72 men and 55 women) passed. 5 First Class certificates were granted (2 to men and 3 to women).

The number of candidates was greater than in the previous year, but the results were very poor, especially as regards the Monitors' Examination at which 72 candidates only out of 467 succeeded in securing a pass.

The number of School Gardens, which are under the entire supervision of the Department of Agriculture, was 18, as against 17 in the previous year. The progress made in these schools was generally satisfactory.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The number of Secondary Schools in the Colony was 9, as in 1922. The total number on roll was 708 boys and 618 girls,

while the average attendance was 657 and 581 respectively, as compared with 637 boys and 605 girls on roll for the previous year, with average attendance of 521 and 472 respectively.

In the Secondary Schools, exclusive of the Royal College, the passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations held during the year were as follows :—

		Boys		Girls
		—		—
Juniors	...	8	...	7
Seniors	...	...	...	10

The higher education of boys is conducted at the Royal College ; the year opened with 500 pupils on the roll and on 31st December, 1923, the number stood at 450, the average attendance for the year being 469.

Since the erection of the Royal College gymnasium in the year 1922, physical culture has been forming part of the regular school curriculum.

There are two scholarships offered annually in the highest form, which is examined by the Cambridge University Examination Syndicate, of the value of £1,000 each, tenable for four or five years, with £75 passage allowance to or from England. The holders may join any University in the British Empire or study at any scientific or technical institution in the United Kingdom.

From 1st January 1920 those scholarship allowances were temporarily increased by 30 per cent.

73 boys from the Royal College sat for the full School Certificate Cambridge Local Examination and 29 passed, of whom 12 qualified for admission to the English Scholarship Class while 12 sat for the supplementary certificate and 7 passed, of whom 3 qualified.

After an interval of about 9 years, the London University Examinations were again held in Mauritius. In January 1923, 3 pupils and 3 Assistant Masters took the Matriculation Examination ; and 2 pupils and 2 Assistant Masters passed in the 1st Division, while 1 pupil passed in the 2nd Division. In July 1923, 3 Assistant Masters sat for the Intermediate Examination in Arts and Science ; of these 2 passed and 1 was referred in one subject.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Pending the completion of the buildings for the College of Agriculture, the house at Réduit formerly occupied by the Assistant Director was converted into temporary laboratories and class rooms for the teaching of Sugar Technology, Biology, Agriculture and Physics.

The preliminary works for building the College commenced in March 1923 and on the 11th July, 1923, the foundation stone was laid by Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., in presence of the Members of the Council of Government, the Board of Agriculture, and the Board of the Agricultural College. The site selected fronts the main road at Réduit and adjoins the existing head quarters of the Department of Agriculture.

Funds for the maintenance of the College are provided by means of an export tax on sugar of three cents of a rupee per 100 kilos exported, which is levied under Ordinance 2 of 1922 ; the

proceeds of this tax are credited to a special fund from which the cost of working is defrayed.

It is proposed to award each year to a former student of the College of Agriculture a laureateship, entitling him to a travelling studentship of two years duration in selected subjects. Selected candidates for laureateships are required to follow courses of instruction prescribed and may, on the completion of their studies, be required to take up positions in the College of Agriculture as Lecturers or Assistant Lecturers on salaries previously fixed.

The first laureateship was awarded in 1922 to Mr. W. H. Edwards, for the purpose of studying Agricultural Entomology and Zoology. Mr. Edwards proceeded to England and was enrolled as a student of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. On the completion of his two years' study in England, his laureateship will be extended for a further period of three months to enable him to study entomological administration in South Africa.

The second laureateship was awarded to Mr. R. Lincoln, who proceeded to England in July 1923 to enrol himself as a student of the School of Agriculture of Cambridge University.

Messrs. Edwards and Lincoln will, it is anticipated, join the College Staff as Lecturers when their courses of training are complete.

PUBLIC WORKS

The following are the principal works carried out in 1923, in addition to maintenance and repairs.

The Leper Asylum at Powder Mills, the Training College at Curepipe and the Industrial School at Cassis have been completed.

Quarters for Postmasters have been erected at Long Mountain and Rivière des Anguilles.

A new Laboratory and Office at Moka Hospital, the Agricultural College at Reduit, a new Dispensary at Curepipe, and an experimental Dairy at Curepipe are under construction.

At Grand River South East and Poudre d'Or, new offices for the Inland Revenue Branch have been built; also a septic tank and filters at Engrais Cathan, Curepipe.

The construction of cottages for working classes at Plaine Lauzun and at the foot of Signal Mountain is being continued.

Large repairs and improvements have been effected to Long Mountain Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Rose Belle Police and Curepipe District Court.

Pail and Pit Latrines have been constructed in most Government offices and buildings.

WATER WORKS

The hand pump at St. André, Pamplémousses, has been replaced by two pumps driven by oil engines.

Roches Noires Water Supply has been completed.

At "La Cave," large improvements have been made to the pumping plant.

The scheme for supplying water to Quartier Militaire and Providence Jauffret from Rivulet St. Martin has been completed.

The extension of Bambous Water Supply to Medine Railway Station, Medine Estate and La Mecque and the new branch from Mare d'Albert to Malakoff to supply l'Escalier have also been completed.

DRAINAGE WORKS

The construction of the 24" Outfall Sewer is being continued.

A concrete Tipping Chamber has been constructed to receive night soil from undrained portions of the town of Port Louis.

IRRIGATION WORKS

La Ferme.—Revenue collected from sale of water amounted to Rs. 55,900 as compared with Rs. 78,750 in 1922.

La Nicolière.—The earthwork on the main dam has been completed for the first 1,300 feet, the puddle trench excavated and filled all along. Progress on Feeder Channels has been continued and an aqueduct built on Ruisseau Jamblon sixty feet above the river bed, 5 spans of 50 feet on ferro concrete pillars.

Midlands.—The surveys being completed the necessary plans and designs have been prepared and work started on the construction of the dam. The works at the head of the Feeder Channel have been finished and the channel dug on a length of about one mile.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

RAILWAYS

The total length of the Mauritius Government Railway is 120 miles exclusive of the Bois Chéri Light Railway of about 24 miles in length. The gauge of the main line is 4 feet 8½ inches. 2¼ miles of the line between Petite Rivière and Beau Bassin Stations have been doubled.

Arrangements have now been made for treating the Mauritius Railways as a commercial undertaking, and for keeping the Railway revenue and expenditure separated from those of the Colony; and it has been decided that the report on the Railway Department should in future cover the financial year from July 1st to June 30th instead of the calendar year as in the past; hence the following figures for the half-year ending 30th June, 1923.

The receipts during the half-year January to June, 1923, were Rs. 1,867,601 as against Rs. 1,748,474 during the corresponding half-year of 1922, or an increase of Rs. 119,127.

These figures do not include Government traffic which amounted to Rs. 285,376 and Rs. 235,665 during the first half-year in 1923 and 1922 respectively.

The receipts for passenger traffic showed an increase of Rs. 92,429 as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1922. As regards goods traffic the tonnage conveyed was 209,633 tons as compared with 167,749 tons in the corresponding half-year of 1922, with a corresponding increase of Rs. 1,710 in the earnings.

The working expenses for the half-year January to June, 1923, amounted to Rs. 1,899,723, as against Rs. 3,216,971 in the corresponding half-year of 1922, or a decrease of Rs. 1,317,248.

The capital expenditure was Rs. 32,776,002 at 30th June, 1923.

The total expenditure for the half-year ending			
30th June, 1923, was	...	...	Rs. 3,062,230
from which should be deducted the cost of			
new works chargeable to capital, amounting			
to	...	...	1,162,507
showing the working expenses to be			
	...	Rs.	1,899,723
The earnings including Government traffic for			
the same period were			
	...	...	2,152,977
showing a surplus of			
	...	Rs.	253,254
If the interest on the Railway Debt			
	Rs. 190,959		
„ the Sinking Fund			
	...	49,515	
„ Pensions to retired officials			
	...	31,754	
amounting to			
	...	...	Rs. 272,228
be taken into account, there is a deficit of...			
	Rs.	18,974	

BOIS CHERI LIGHT RAILWAY

There is a light railway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge running from the Savanne branch. The total goods traffic carried from January to June, 1923, amounted to 871 tons, as against 1,447 tons in the corresponding half-year of 1922.

The actual working expenses for the half-year were Rs. 14,906 and the total earnings Rs. 1,036, including Rs. 69 on account of work done for Government Departments.

Proposals are under consideration for placing this line on a sound financial basis, and it is hoped that future returns will show an excess of Revenue over Expenditure.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The Colony is well served by road communications, there being altogether 700 miles of road opened for traffic, out of which 550 miles are under the charge of the Public Works Department, and the remainder maintained by the District Boards and Townships.

In spite of the heavy motor traffic, the roads have been kept in a very fair condition.

The tarring of roads is being extended and done as rapidly as possible, as it has proved very satisfactory.

The gradual reconstruction of timber bridges in ferro concrete is being continued.

Tombeau bridge was started in 1923 and is well advanced ; it is nearly 200 feet long and there are 7 spans of 20 feet each.

The timber bridges in Port-Louis are also being reconstructed in ferro concrete, and it is expected that they will have been completely reconstructed by the end of 1924, thus requiring no further maintenance.

The total number of motor vehicles registered on 31st December, 1923, was 2,433—cars 1,991, lorries 197 and motor cycles 245.

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The total revenue from the Post Office in 1923 amounted to Rs. 413,487, being Rs. 9,319 less than that of the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 295,476, showing a decrease of Rs. 12,143 as compared with 1922. The excess of revenue over expenditure was Rs. 118,011 as against Rs. 87,316 in 1922.

The Royal Naval Wireless Telegraph Station at Rose Belle was closed by the Admiralty on June 30, 1922, but has now been taken over by the Mauritius Government. The Station was re-opened on the 1st March, 1924.

TELEPHONES

Telephonic communication, constituted and owned by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company Limited, continues to increase and there are now seven public exchanges open to the public with 3,812 miles of wire (2,085 miles underground and 1,727 miles aerial), giving service to 1,130 subscribers. The system in vogue is Magneto, the switchboards at Port Louis and Curepipe being of the "Reverse Central Battery" variety.

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- Mac Gregor, Malcolm E. : Report on the Anophelinæ of Mauritius. (Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London, 1924).

H. LALOUETTE,

Port Louis,
19th July, 1924.

Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
FOR 1923

Meridian thro' POUCE
57°34'E. Greenwich

1. aux Serpents

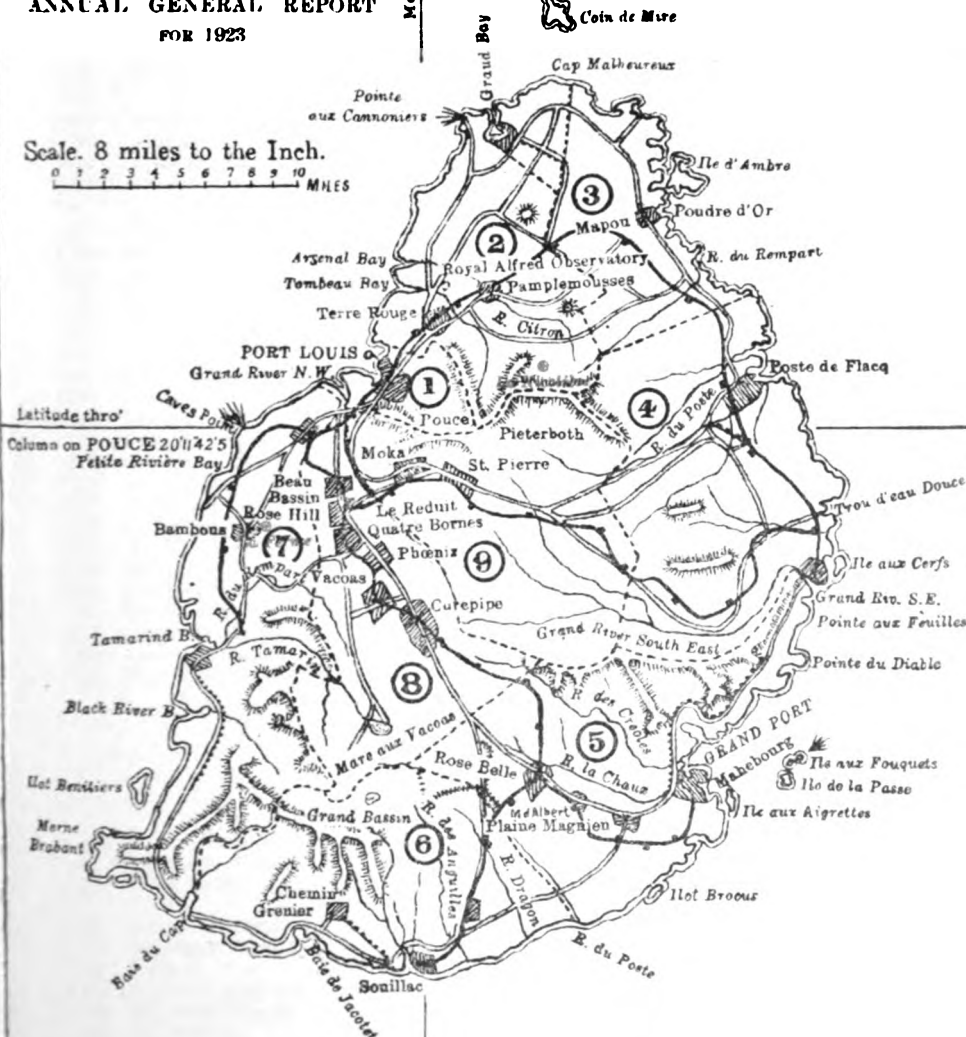
Round 1

Flat Island
Gabriel I

Coin de Mire

Scale. 8 miles to the Inch.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES



DISTRICTS

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 Port Louis | 6 Savanne |
| 2 Pamplemousses | 7 Black River |
| 3 Riv. du Rempart | 8 P. Wilhems |
| 4 Flacq | 9 Moka |
| 5 Grand Port | |

REFERENCE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Existing Railways & Telegraphs..... | |
| Railway Stations..... | |
| Other Telegraph lines..... | |
| Narrow Gauge Light Railway..... | |
| Main Roads..... | |
| Light Houses..... | |

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923-1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922-1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	"
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923-1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923-1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji	"
1215	British Honduras	"
1216	New Hebrides	"
1217	Gibraltar	"
1218	Jamaica	"
1219	Sierra Leone	"
1220	Uganda	"
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the Northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1235.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1186.)



PRINTED IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Admiral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

or through any Bookseller.

1925.

Price 1s. 9d. net.



COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1235.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1186.)



THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

INFORMATION OFFICE

OFFICE at the following addresses:
London Street, London, S.W.1;
Crescent, Cardiff;
Glasgow;

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1923.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

SITUATION AND AREA.

SINGAPORE.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude $1^{\circ} 17'$ north, and longitude $103^{\circ} 50'$ east.

PENANG.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula in 5° north latitude, and at the northern extremity or entrance to the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in $5^{\circ} 24'$ north latitude, and $100^{\circ} 21'$ east longitude.

MALACCA.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in $2^{\circ} 10'$ north latitude, and $102^{\circ} 14'$ east longitude.

THE DINDINGS.

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang, in $4^{\circ} 15'$ north latitude, and $100^{\circ} 35'$ east longitude. Lumut, the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude $11^{\circ} 50'$ to $12^{\circ} 45'$ south, longitude $96^{\circ} 50'$ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude $10^{\circ} 30'$ south, longitude $105^{\circ} 40'$ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employés of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

The total area of the Colony with these dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

LABUAN.

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo, in $5^{\circ} 16'$ north latitude, and $115^{\circ} 15'$ east longitude. Its area is 28.6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93° .

Labuan has a fine port (Victoria Harbour), safe, and easy of access.

It is a market for produce from Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and beche-de-mer, which is re-exported to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank, but no other bank. The currency is that of the Straits Settlements.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909.

HISTORY.

MALACCA.

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In

1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources

PENANG.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah who stipulated that the sum of 6,000 dollars should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased in return to \$10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River: it is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE.

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN.

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,

During the year under review the price of rubber was maintained at a figure which provided in most cases a margin of profit and with the recovery in the price of tin conditions were somewhat easier than in the preceding year.

An event of considerable importance took place on 26th February when the first meeting of the reconstituted Legislative Council was held and four additional unofficial members took their seats.

The constitution of Singapore as a naval base was decided on during the year and the Straits Settlements Government undertook the acquisition and presentation to the Imperial Government of the land required for the purpose. Early in the current year the policy of the Imperial Government was reversed, and work on the naval base has been discontinued.

With the opening to traffic in October of the railway over the Causeway connecting Singapore Island with Johore the final link of direct railway communication with Siam was completed. Work on the road was well advanced at the end of the year.

On the invitation of the Governments of British Malaya the Fifth Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine met in Singapore in September. It was attended by 300 medical members representing 15 different countries and many interesting meetings and discussions took place.

The prevalence of Venereal Disease in Singapore has given cause for grave anxiety and in January a small expert Committee was appointed to consider and report on the question. The Report, which was presented in July, disclosed a very disquieting state of affairs. Measures to remedy this are receiving the careful and anxious consideration of Government.

A Committee was also appointed in November to enquire into and report on various questions connected with the use of Opium in British Malaya. The report had not been presented at the end of the year.

I.—Finances.

The revenue for the year 1923 amounted to \$33,316,015 exceeding the Estimates by \$4,202,897, whilst the expenditure was \$26,717,778, being \$2,113,339 less than the Estimate.

The revenue was \$787,447 less than that of 1922, while expenditure exceeded that of 1922 by \$1,920,693. The excess of revenue over expenditure was \$6,598,237, as compared with \$9,306,377 in 1922.

The actual figures for 1922 and 1923 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE.

—	1922.	1923.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	1,682	1,662	...	20
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	26,763,528	23,493,001	...	3,270,527
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimburse-ments in Aid ...	961,625	973,225	11,600	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,420,589	1,723,412	302,823	...
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,295,360	1,532,744	237,384	...
6. Interest ...	2,153,997	2,432,528	278,531	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,332,646	3,033,716	1,701,070	...
	33,929,427	33,190,288	2,531,408	3,270,547
8. Land Sales ...	174,035	125,727	...	48,308
TOTAL ...	34,103,462	33,316,015	2,531,408	3,318,855
	Net	Decrease ...	\$787,447	

The withdrawal of Income Tax at the end of 1922 accounted for more than the total decrease under the heading "Licences, etc.". The amount of Income Tax (arrears) collected in 1923 was \$573,651, as compared with \$3,911,543 in 1922.

Stamp Duties fell by \$291,261, due to a fall of \$392,165.17 in Estate Duty.

Miscellaneous Receipts include a sum of \$1,716,748 recovered on account of overpayment of Defence Contribution for the period 1st January, 1921 to 31st March, 1922.

Among excesses of Revenue over the Estimates were:—

	\$		\$
Income Tax ...	123,651	Rents on Govt. Property ...	287,702
Petroleum Duty ...	78,907	Interest ...	962,508
Tobacco Duties ...	230,591	Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,959,928
Posts and Telegraphs ...	319,582	Land Sales ...	45,726

(ii).—EXPENDITURE.

—	1922.	1923.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions ...	852,591	920,010	67,419	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	17,808	18,807	999	...
4. The Governor ...	127,498	128,021	523	...
5. Civil Service ...	581,846	710,583	128,737	...
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident				
7. Government Printing Office	190,743	193,366	2,623	...
8. Land and District Offices ...	174,714	148,038	...	26,676
9. Forests ...	287,427	305,923	18,496	...
10. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	47,675	43,230	...	4,445
11. Treasury ...	87,688	86,654	...	1,034
12. Audit ...	232,814	210,367	...	22,447
13. Director of External Audit ...	78,448	86,450	8,002	...
14. Marine ...	...	14,549	14,549	...
15. Imports, Exports and Statistics ...	634,410	598,035	...	36,375
16. Legal ...	53,691	70,677	16,986	...
17. Police ...	402,349	401,629	...	720
18. Prisons ...	2,656,777	2,377,304	...	279,473
19. Medical and Sanitary Services, Malaya ...	410,590	384,519	...	26,071
20. Medical ...	23,267	...	...	23,267
21. Health Branch, Singapore...	518,471	434,248	...	84,223
22. Hospitals and Dispensaries	132,575	228,692	96,117	...
23. Veterinary ...	1,189,423	1,119,612	...	69,811
24. Education ...	55,740	59,913	4,173	...
25. Ecclesiastical ...	871,306	860,034	...	11,272
26. Transport ...	25,949	25,400	...	549
27. Military Expenditure ...	175,240	218,224	42,984	...
28. Miscellaneous Services	4,046,407	4,176,566	130,159	...
29. Post Office ...	5,203,517	6,662,586	1,459,069	...
30. Government Monopolies	1,339,778	1,275,583	...	64,195
31. Fisheries Department, S. S. and F. M. S.	571,593	504,527	...	67,066
32. Agricultural Department ...	...	56,764	56,764	...
33. Botanical Gardens ...	98,763	97,134	...	1,629
34. Raffles Museum and Library ...	85,487	90,471	4,984	...
35. Income Tax ...	48,962	42,697	...	6,265
36. Survey Department ...	38,560	21,794	...	16,766
37. Public Works Department...	295,454	523,904	228,450	...
38. Public Works, Recurrent ...	423,875	462,147	38,272	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	512,285	602,283	89,998	...
	2,266,281	2,519,954	253,673	...
TOTAL ...	\$24,797,085	26,717,778	2,662,977	742,284
	Net	Increase ...	\$1,920,693	

The main heads under which there has been increase in Expenditure (as compared with 1922) are:—

Increase.

	\$
Pensions	67,419
Civil Service	128,737
Military Expenditure	130,159
Health Branch	96,117
Miscellaneous Services	1,459,069
Survey Department	228,450
Public Works Recurrent	89,998
Public Works Extraordinary	253,673

and the main heads under which expenditure has decreased are:—

Decrease.

	\$
Police	279,473
Medical	84,223
Hospitals and Dispensaries	69,811
Post Office	64,195
Government Monopolies	67,066

The rise in "Civil Service" has been almost counter-balanced by a fall of over \$125,000 in the expenditure against the vote "Salaries of Acting Officers".

The increase under the head "Military Expenditure" is mainly due to increased expenditure on the local Volunteer Forces, Defence Contribution showing an increase of \$30,000 only.

Miscellaneous Services include the purchase of the Penang Hill Railway at a total cost of \$1,474,500 and purchase of land for the Naval Base.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the War, the following table will show the Colony's expenditure for the last seven years and the portion of it which has gone in Public Works Extraordinary:—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Public Works</i>
	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Extraordinary.</i>
	\$	\$
1917 ...	6,774,048	208,908
1918 ...	8,687,204	458,257
1919 ...	29,111,433	892,571
1920 ...	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921 ...	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922 ...	20,969,940	2,266,281
1923 ...	22,860,635	2,519,954

The difference of 14 millions between expenditure for 1918 and expenditure for 1923 is accounted for mainly under the 3 heads:—Personal Emoluments 6 millions, Miscellaneous Services 2½ millions, Public Works Extraordinary 2 millions.

Miscellaneous Services:—The chief items under “Other Charges” are:—

	\$
Purchase of Penang Hill Railway	1,474,500
Contributions to Rural Boards ...	434,000
Conveyance of passengers to United Kingdom in s.s. <i>Marama</i> ...	154,900
Johore Causeway ...	281,000
Purchase of Land and Buildings ...	1,361,500
Excess of payments over receipts on account of Liner Requisition Scheme ...	303,000
Interest on Straits Settlements War Loan ...	253,100
	<hr/>
	\$4,262,000

The Johore Causeway is of the nature of a Public Work Extraordinary, but provision was made for it under the head “Miscellaneous Services”, as the work was not carried out under the superintendence of the Public Works Department.

The principal savings effected on the Expenditure Estimates 1923 were in respect of:—

	\$
Civil Service ...	116,160
Marine ...	97,014
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	280,302
Education ...	261,191
Military Expenditure ...	303,886
Post Office ...	432,881
Government Monopolies ...	158,783
Public Works Recurrent ...	84,781
Public Works Extraordinary ...	888,377
Police ...	148,752
Health Branch ...	110,363

(iii).—STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, were as follows:—

<i>Liabilities.</i>			<i>Assets.</i>		
—			—		
		\$			\$
Deposits ...	...	9,636,375	Indian Agency Account ...	...	344,465
Drafts and Remittances ...	...	47,697	Investments ...	...	59,174,715
Suspense (a) ...	...	4,700,629	Advances ...	...	483,783
Investments Depreciation Account ...	...	81,842	Imprests ...	...	76,526
Loans:—			Loans:—		
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921–1926 ...	...	20,216,300	Municipalities ...	...	5,950,481
Cash in Transit ..	...	6,005	Kelantan Government ...	...	520,000
Surplus—			Trengganu Government ...	...	450,000
Reserved for specific purposes (b) ...	...	\$29,570,000	Singapore Harbour Board ...	...	2,406,207
Unreserved ...	...	35,325,482	Penang Harbour Board ...	...	584,139
		<u>64,895,482</u>	Ho Hong Steamship Co. ...	...	289,000
			Singapore Cricket Club ...	...	46,402
			Brunei Government ...	...	19,000
			Federated Malay States Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	...	15,000,000
			Johore Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	...	800,000
			Municipality, Singapore Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	...	3,500,000
			Municipality, Penang Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	...	916,300
			Sailors' Institute ...	...	120,000
			Cash ...	...	8,903,312
TOTAL ...	...	<u>\$99,584,330</u>	TOTAL ...	...	<u>\$99,584,330</u>

(a) Includes Interest Currency Commissioners \$2,024,811

(b) Loans to Municipalities \$15,255,000

Loan to Government of Trengganu ...	...	550,000
For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital	...	8,570,000
Raffles College Buildings ...	...	1,000,000
Malacca Water Supply ...	...	2,000,000
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply ...	...	1,000,000
Loan to Stadium Association ...	...	25,000
Loan to Sailors' Institute ...	...	170,000
Development of Penang Hill ...	...	1,000,000

TOTAL ... \$29,570,000

(iv).—PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1923, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is \$59,257,302.

The expenditure upon service in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	\$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ...	320,137
Total ...	\$55,869,097
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	3,388,205
	\$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was \$2,079,666 in 1923. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on 31st December, 1923, was approximately \$5,400,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at \$28,655,700, under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at \$36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at \$15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The proceeds of the Straits Settlements 7 per cent Loan (1921) were lent to the following Governments and Municipalities, which pay all interest due on the Loan:—

	\$
Federated Malay States Government	15,000,000
Johore Government ...	800,000
Singapore Municipality ...	3,500,000
Penang Municipality ...	916,300
Total ...	\$20,216,300

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance 24 of 1921 amounted to \$80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish the Loan.

(v).—EXCHANGE.

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1923:—

- The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
- „ Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
- „ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
- „ Netherlands Trading Society. (Nederlandisch Handel Maatschappij).
- „ Banque de l'Indo-Chine.
- „ International Banking Corporation.
- „ Netherlands India Commercial Bank. (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
- „ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company. Limited.
- „ Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
- „ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
- „ Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited.
- „ Ho Hong Bank, Limited.
- „ China and Southern Bank, Limited
- „ Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited.
- „ Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
- „ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
- „ Banque Industrielle de Chine.

No Bank suspended payment in the Colony during 1923.

During the year under report the demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between $2/4 - 5/32$ and $2/3 - 27/32$.

(vi).—CURRENCY.

A new Currency Ordinance came into force from the 1st October, 1923. Under it the old Gold Standard Reserve, Note Guarantee, Investment and Depreciation Funds were amalgamated into a Currency Guarantee Fund, which consists of two parts—a liquid portion and an investment portion.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year

consisted of \$81,123,024.70 in currency notes and \$6,718,594.12 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of \$144,090, as compared with \$145,082 at the end of 1922.

At the beginning of the year 1923 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to \$72,944,004.70. There was a demand by the public for currency during the months of February, March, April, September and December, which resulted in the issue of \$8,570,850 in exchange for sterling.

The net result over the whole year shows that the currency notes in circulation were increased to \$81,123,024.70 at the end of 1923.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to \$47,510,865.86 consisting of £328,251 in gold, \$13,358,966.38 in silver and \$2,283,284.04 in subsidiary coin in the Colony and £773,330 in gold and £2,616,424 2s. 8d. in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at cash bargain or minimum prices, at the end of the year, \$70,630,703.38, the cost price of those investments being \$74,952,132.40.

The Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth \$120,166,379.78 (liquid portion \$47,510,865.86, investment portion \$70,630,703.38 and cash balance of the Currency Commissioners' Income Account \$2,024,810.54). The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was \$39,043,355.08, as compared with an excess of \$35,448,775.49 at the end of 1922.

Small change continued to be returned to the Treasury during the year with the result that the subsidiary silver coins and small notes in circulation decreased by \$634,600 and \$298,476 respectively. The notes in circulation of a face value less than \$1 stood at the end of 1923 as follows:—

	\$	c.
10-cent notes printed in United Kingdom	955,600	00
10-cent notes printed locally	...	332,040 70
25-cent notes printed locally	...	35,579 00
	<u>\$1,323,219</u>	<u>70</u>

The corresponding figure at the end of 1921 was \$2,422,277.90 and at the end of 1922 was \$1,621,695.70.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 23,508,315 against 22,421,620 in 1922. The increased rate of destruction is mainly due to an alteration in the methods of dealing with notes of face value below \$50.

Of the notes destroyed 6,397,900 were 10-cent notes and 13,945,875 were \$1 notes. There were 794,071 notes of various denominations awaiting destruction in the Note Cancellation and the Verification Departments at the end of the year.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 1,704,400, and further 22,597,986 were presented during the year, making a total of 24,302,386 for destruction. The total number destroyed was 23,508,315 as stated in the preceding paragraph and the balance remaining for destruction at the end of the year was consequently 794,071, which represented notes of the face value of 10 cents, one dollar, five dollars, ten dollars, fifty dollars and hundred dollars.

(vii).—ENEMY PROPERTY.

Custodian of Enemy Property.—

Of the funds in the hands of the Custodian of Enemy Property, a sum of \$11,653,286.90 was transferred to the Controller of the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London for the purpose of giving credit to the German, Austrian and Hungarian Governments in accordance with the Peace Treaties.

At the end of the year the Custodian still had under his control \$2,219,836.40 of which \$2,149,040.95 was invested.

Local Clearing Office.—

The work of the Local Clearing Office continued unabated during the year.

Claims by and against Germany.

The claims by Germans against British Nationals dealt with during the year amounted to \$200,417.64 making a total of \$1,832,813.03 from the date of the establishment of the office. The admissions and contests during the year were \$1,638.51 and \$328,149.59 respectively, making a total of \$184,792.20 for admissions and of \$1,594,557.50 for contests from 1920 to 31st December, 1923. The claims withdrawn during the year by Germany amounted to \$551,626, making a total of \$755,591.81 to 31st December, 1923.

British claims against German Nationals forwarded to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London during the year amounted to \$25,336.92 and the admissions by Germans

amounted to \$2,343.75, making totals presented and admitted from 1920 to the end of 1923 of \$296,123.29 and \$33,788.35 respectively.

The claims contested by the Germans during the year amounted to \$6,688.60 and brought the total of contested claims to 31st December, 1923, up to \$166,431.90.

Of the claims contested by the Germans, this Clearing Office withdrew \$2,218.06 during the year and thus brought the total of withdrawn claims to 31st December, 1923, up to \$9,340.81, leaving the balance in dispute.

During the year this Clearing Office collected \$8,066.19 from British Nationals on account of debts admitted due to Germans, and paid out \$28,436.94 to British Nationals in respect of their claims against Germans admitted by the German Clearing Office. The total collections and payments from 1920 to 31st December, 1923, are \$170,032.56 and \$47,635.59 respectively.

In addition to the above claims by British Nationals against German Nationals, claims amounting to \$73,083.85 were presented against the Treuhander for Enemy Property, Germany, in respect of property of British Nationals seized by that office during the war. Of this amount \$24,957.79 was admitted up to 31st December, 1923.

Claims by and against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.—

During the year claims amounting to \$221.33 by Austrian Nationals against British Nationals were received. Of the total claims presented by the Austrian Clearing Office, claims amounting to \$186.56 have been admitted to 31st December, 1923, and the balance is contested. Of the total contested claims the Austrian Clearing Office has withdrawn \$27,775.35. As against the above no claims from British Nationals against Austria have been registered with this Clearing Office.

The claims for \$3,024.41 forwarded to Hungary in the year 1921 are still unsettled. One claim amounting to \$4,166.39 was received during the year from the Hungarian Clearing Office and this was contested.

The Controller's investments on 31st December, 1923, amounted to \$130,000.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests, Land and Fisheries.

(a) SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 29,936,949 as compared with 26,913,256 in 1922.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1922 and 1923.

NATIONALITY.	1922.				1923.				Increase in 1923 as compared with 1922.	Decrease in 1923 as compared with 1922.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christ-mas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christ-mas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).
American	777,124	216,254	8,296	1,830	1,003,504	674,349	267,330	41,898	...	983,577
B. N. Borneo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,466	7,466
British	8,889,748	5,465,982	397,156	166,226	14,919,112	9,646,559	5,729,320	309,806	158,475	15,844,160
Chinese	80,975	1,542	...	...	82,517	64,514	4,440	...	...	68,954
Danish	315,722	103,556	...	13,506	432,784	351,454	188,754	6,674	...	546,882
Dutch	2,840,503	649,753	...	216	3,490,472	3,559,736	708,893	...	...	4,268,629
French	1,010,314	499,954	...	...	1,510,268	1,106,489	571,414	...	...	1,677,903
German	192,493	15,288	...	...	207,781	534,591	83,950	...	...	618,541
Greek	4,968	...	...	...	4,968	...	...	...	...	...
Italian	170,163	101,506	...	...	271,669	204,940	176,974	...	...	381,914
Japanese	3,157,797	617,336	292,162	67,758	4,135,053	3,353,709	775,650	241,346	64,818	4,435,523
Norwegian	307,674	13,802	...	...	321,476	369,101	45,775	...	...	414,876
Russian	...	...	...	...	...	74,342	...	...	...	74,342
Sarawak	82,208	...	...	854	83,062	108,775	...	...	996	109,771
Siamese	273,582	...	...	...	273,582	234,711	...	...	...	234,711
Spanish	54,460	...	...	...	54,460	61,752	...	...	...	61,752
Swedish	122,548	...	...	...	122,548	167,550	40,398	...	...	207,948
TOTALS	18,280,279	7,684,973	697,614	250,390	26,913,256	20,512,572	8,592,898	599,724	231,755	29,936,949
									Net Increase	3,101,022
									...	77,329
										3,023,693

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1919	...	...	18,885,183 tons.
1920	...	...	24,027,912 „
1921	...	...	25,055,798 „
1922	...	...	26,913,256 „
1923	...	...	29,936,949 „

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 59,238 in number and 2,174,942 in tons in 1923 as compared with 51,882 and 2,014,983, respectively, in 1922.

Five new steam-launches and motor-vessels with a tonnage of 184 tons gross and eighteen sailing-vessels of 1,372 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 8 new sailing-vessels of 569 tons were licensed under section 424, and 804 vessels of 6,435 tons under section 425.

HARBOUR BOARDS.

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the years ended June 30, 1922, and June 30, 1923, have been as follows:—

	<i>Income.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	—	—
	\$	\$
Year ended 30th		
June, 1922 ...	10,345,960	7,961,050
Year ended 30th		
June, 1923 ...	7,881,712	5,923,898

The capital debt due to Government stood at 30th June, 1923, at \$50,342,174 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of \$4,941,892 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Wharf and Dock Departments of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1923, were \$980,142 and the expenditure \$898,923.

(b) TRADE.

The recorded trade of the Colony in 1923 compares favourably with that of the two preceding years. The aggregate values of both Imports and Exports were higher. This increased value was chiefly due to the enhanced prices obtained for the two principal commodities—Rubber and Tin. The exports of these although they show no great difference in quantity were valued at £14 million more than in 1922.

The following figures show the value of the Colony trade for the last five years, the value of Coin and Bullion, and of the trade between the Settlements, being excluded:—

		<i>Imports of Merchandise.</i>		<i>Imports Comparison with preceding year.</i>	
		—	—	—	—
		(000's)		(000's)	
		£	£	£	£
1919	...	96,664	99,318	+ 15,046	+ 27,396
1920	...	124,216	102,536	+ 27,552	+ 3,218
1921	...	65,791	56,138	— 58,425	— 46,398
1922	...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,922
1923	...	89,002	82,590	+ 22,310	+ 20,530

The aggregate trade for the year 1923, excluding inter-settlement trade was therefore £171·6 millions as against £128·7 millions in 1922, an increase of £42·9 millions. The value of the inter-settlement trade for the last five years, including treasure, was as follows:—

		<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Exports.</i>		<i>Imports Comparison with preceding year.</i>	
		—	—	—	—	—	—
		(000's)		(000's)			
		£	£	£	£		
1919	...	13,164	13,235	+ 3,981	+ 3,651		
1920	...	14,938	14,797	+ 1,774	+ 1,562		
1921	...	6,904	6,887	— 8,034	— 7,910		
1922	...	5,144	5,078	— 1,760	— 1,809		
1923	...	5,644	5,332	+ 500	+ 254		

Bullion and Specie.—The following are the figures for the last three years:—

		<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
		—	—
		(000's)	
		£	£
1921	...	2,335	1,887
1922	...	1,892	1,301
1923	..	1,883	616

The following figures show the trade according to classes:—

		IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
		1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
		(000's)			(000's)		
		£	£	£	£	£	
I.	Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics ...	26,204	25,044	26,224	21,129	19,056	19,056
II.	Raw Materials ...	24,391	29,140	46,425	25,439	35,426	53,426
III.	Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles ...	15,196	12,508	16,354	9,570	7,577	9,570
TOTAL ...		65,791	66,692	89,002	56,138	62,059	82,059

There were increases in all three classes but chiefly Class II.

The following tables show the quantities and values of certain principal commodities imported and exported in 1923 as compared with 1922:—

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IMPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted.	1922.		1923.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
Para Rubber	Centals	3,431	\$ 88,907	3,850	\$ 163,273	419	\$ 74,366	...	\$...
Tin Ore	Pls.	1,225	66,297	1,353	94,831	128	28,534	...	...
Rice	"	9,541	66,827	8,986	58,863	...	...	555	7,964
Milk Condensed	Cases	549	8,540	709	9,763	160	1,223	...	...
Sugar	Pls.	1,412	13,843	1,360	16,624	...	2,781	52	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	9,487	18,730	10,969	20,571	1,482	1,841	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted	Pls.	856	14,029	841	13,167	...	...	15	862
Areanuts	"	811	6,636	988	9,575	177	2,939	...	...
Benzine	Galls.	7,297	6,907	26,510	23,643	19,213	16,736	...	...
Petroleum	Cases	1,903	11,724	2,573	14,310	670	2,586	...	...
Sago	Pls.	958	4,823	745	3,393	...	...	213	1,430
Cotton Piece Goods	Pieces	4,371	25,188	6,493	32,632	2,122	7,444	...	...
Sarongs	Corges.	379	11,083	498	13,806	119	2,723	...	...
Copra	Pls.	2,305	22,359	2,375	24,415	70	2,056	...	...
Pepper	"	325	5,466	277	4,979	...	...	48	487
Rattans	"	449	3,819	413	3,868	...	49	36	...
Coal	Tons.	584	10,979	633	9,803	49	...	...	1,176
Machinery	...	...	4,693	...	6,810	...	2,117	...	...

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted.	1922.		1923.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
Para Rubber	Centals	4,634	\$ 136,145	4,588	\$ 227,893	...	\$ 91,748	46	...
Tin	Pls.	1,113	89,947	1,174	119,717	61	29,770	...	...
Rice	"	6,062	42,045	5,732	38,182	...	...	330	3,863
Milk Condensed	Cases	270	4,269	332	4,674	62	405	...	...
Sugar	Pls.	559	5,856	766	9,825	207	3,969	...	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	8,514	15,622	8,885	15,899	371	277	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted	Pls.	932	17,041	818	14,280	...	...	114	2,761
Arecanuts	"	864	8,308	1,071	12,470	207	4,162	...	...
Benzine	Galls.	3,636	3,482	26,146	23,878	22,510	20,396	...	...
Petroleum	Cases	1,354	8,680	2,023	11,300	669	2,620	...	...
Sago	Pls.	978	5,881	828	4,718	...	...	150	1,163
Cotton Piece Goods	Pieces	2,721	16,360	4,027	20,988	1,306	4,628	...	...
Sarongs	Corges.	183	5,245	319	8,371	136	3,126	...	...
Copra	Pls.	2,794	29,527	2,527	28,649	...	...	267	878
Pepper	"	377	7,382	312	6,002	...	...	65	1,380
Rattans	"	461	6,846	388	5,787	...	...	73	1,059
Preserved Pineapples	Cases	711	6,694	843	5,549	132	...	...	1,145
Rubber Latex	Galls.	22	44	46	80	24	36	...	...

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1921, 1922 and 1923:—

	1921.		1922		1923.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.
			(000's)			
		\$		\$		\$
Malay States ...	1,923	47,766	2,634	70,462	2,272	107,739
Netherlands Indies ...	303	7,115	619	13,563	1,331	44,533
Other Countries ...	110	2,535	178	4,882	247	11,001
Total ...	2,336	57,416	3,431	88,907	3,850	163,273

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1921, 1922 and 1923:—

	1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.
			(000's)			
		\$		\$		\$
United Kingdom ...	398	13,333	223	6,784	498	25,465
United States of America ...	2,268	64,264	3,681	108,504	3,247	161,238
Other Countries ...	622	16,590	730	20,857	843	41,190
Total ...	3,288	94,187	4,634	136,145	4,588	227,893

Tin and tin ore were imported in 1921, 1922 and 1923, from the following countries:—

	1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Tin	Tin Ore	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.
			(000's)			
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.
Malay States ...	73	678	96	714	122	766
Netherlands Indies ...	1	169	11	334	1	369
Siam ...	4	104	6	139	9	160
Other Countries ...	...	78	...	38	...	58
Total ...	78	1,029	113	1,225	132	1,353

The exports of Tin in 1921, 1922 and 1923 were as follows:—

	1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Pikuls.	Value.	Pikuls.	Value.	Pikuls.	Value.
			(000 0's)			
		\$		\$		\$
United Kingdom ...	200	16,338	185	14,776	169	17,578
United States of America	330	27,573	752	60,768	803	81,737
Other Countries ...	174	14,534	176	14,403	202	20,402
Total ...	704	58,445	1,113	89,947	1,174	119,717

The decreased imports of Para Rubber recorded from the Malay States—16,200 tons—were more than counter-balanced by the increased imports from outside Malaya—34,900 tons. The exports show a decrease of about 2,000 tons but an increase in value of nearly \$92 million or about £10·7 million.

There was an increase in the imports of Tin Ore of about 128,000 pikuls (7,600 tons), and of Tin of 19,000 pikuls (1,100 tons). The exports of block tin increased by 61,000 pikuls (3,600 tons) and the value was nearly \$30 million or £3·5 million in excess of that of the 1922 exports.

Other items of interest to be found in the tables given are the large increases in the trade in Petroleum, Benzine, Cigarettes and Cotton Piece Goods. There were decreases of some importance in the exports of Sago, Copra, Pepper and Rattans. The quantity of Preserved Pineapples exported increased but there was over \$1 million decrease in the value.

The following table shows the value of the merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom:

Australia; countries in the Continent of Europe, the United States of America and Japan:—

	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
			(00 0's)			
	£	£.	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	7,730	7,386	8,253	5,629	4,799	7,516
Australia and New Zealand ...	1,844	1,628	1,597	260	365	503
Belgium ...	132	115	206	96	65	203
Denmark ...	89	72	103	181	191	571
France ...	389	361	509	1,302	1,977	2,679
Germany ...	103	282	581	1,238	1,792	1,222
Holland ...	353	398	429	1,142	1,033	1,314
Italy ...	362	437	490	419	797	1,228
Norway ...	4	6	225	...	3	11
Sweden ...	26	18	28	...	35	66
Spain ...	4	2	8	321	405	341
Russia ...	...	55	11	...	...	...
United States of America ...	2,990	1,892	2,041	11,418	20,751	29,381
Japan ...	2,627	2,106	2,110	2,030	1,786	3,275

As will be seen the value of the trade with almost all the countries named was greater in 1923 than in 1922; exceptions are the imports from Australia and Russia and the exports to Germany and Spain.

The trade with the United Kingdom shows increased values of imports in the case of Cotton Piece Goods, Apparel, Cigars and Cigarettes, Steel, Paper and Stationery, Provisions, Machinery and Tinplates, and decreases for Yarns and Coal. The imports from the United States of America show increases in Tinned Provisions and Motor Cars and decreases in Petroleum and Liquid fuel. Japan furnished Cotton Piece Goods, Dried Fish and Hardware of increased value but there were decreases in the value of Coal and Woodenware.

The Export Trade to the United Kingdom, United States of America and Japan shows increased values for Rubber and Tin. There was a decline in the value of gambier, sago, pepper and preserved pineapples sent to the United Kingdom.

The total value of the Trade with the Netherlands Indies compared with that in 1922 was as follows:—

Imports.		Exports.	
1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
(000,000's).	(000,000's).	(000,000's)	(000,000's)
\$111	\$194.1	\$80.7	\$78.9

The increased value of the imports is principally due to the larger quantity and higher prices of rubber.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

During the year 39 new companies were registered, 1 without share-capital and 38 with a capital of \$10,452,500, of which 32 were private companies with a capital of \$7,472,500.

At the end of the year 404 companies remained on the register, of which 41 were in liquidation; the total subscribed capital of the 350 companies carrying on business was \$155,497,767.

Four hundred and forty-seven companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these 346 are British, 30 are Japanese, 23 are Dutch, 3 are German and 20 are incorporated in the United States of America and Hawaii. Apart from these, 14 companies—all British—have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign companies. Sixty-four companies do Fire Insurance business.

Bankruptcies.

There were 77 trade bankruptcies of which 52 were Chinese. In 27 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In one case liabilities exceeded \$1,000,000, in 3 cases \$400,000 and in 3 other cases \$100,000.

One Deed of Arrangement was registered.

(c) FORESTS.

The area of reserved forests was increased by the constitution of the Mandi Reserve (1,229 acres) in Singapore and the Linggi Reserve (800 acres) in Malacca. The Kubang Ulu Reserve (3 acres, 2 roods, 3 poles) in Province Wellesley was revoked and handed over to the Agricultural Department. The total area of reserved forests is now 111,519 acres, equivalent to 11.6 per cent of the total area of the Colony, but some reduction is likely to be made as the result of the development of Penang Hill for residential purposes.

Revenue and expenditure were \$48,308 and \$44,293 respectively, compared with \$45,007 and \$44,419 in 1922, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was therefore a surplus of \$4,015, compared with \$588 in 1922. Revenue rose in Penang, Province

Wellesley, and Malacca, and fell in the other Settlements. A temporary general fall is now anticipated, except perhaps in the Dindings. Estimates of revenue were exceeded everywhere except in the Dindings.

The outturn of timber was 10,255 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 23,516 tons, compared with 8,489 and 35,331 tons in the previous year. Minor forest produce yielded a revenue of \$3,898, compared with \$4,452 in 1922.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 100 cases in addition to 2 which were pending at the beginning of the year. The 100 cases reported included 22 in which the offenders were undetected. Of the 78 cases dealt with 25 were dealt with departmentally, 43 were taken to court, and 10 were pending at the end of the year. Fines inflicted in court amounted to \$541 in addition to \$447 awarded as compensation for damage to the forest. In the compounded cases a sum of \$474 was paid.

The only important event to record is the amalgamation of the forest department with that of the Federated Malay States.

(d) AGRICULTURE.

Rubber.—Throughout the year restriction of output combined with an increase in demand maintained the price of rubber at a figure providing a margin of profit on practically all estates; at the same time sufficient money was available to provide for proper attention to works of maintenance, such as drainage, weeding and sanitation. The majority of small holdings were regularly tapped, often somewhat severely, to obtain the full output allowed for exportation. The attached table gives the Singapore market prices for the different grades for each month of 1923.

SINGAPORE RUBBER PRICES, 1923.

CENTS PER lb.

—	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Standard Rubber sheet	49½-63½	61½-62	58½-61½	53½-55	44½-53½	46-48	47	51½-53½	50½-53½	45½-49½	46½-50	48½-49
Second quality ribbed sheet ...	45-64½	57-61½	51-61	50-57½	41-53½	42½-51½	42½-49½	45-53½	47½-52½	45½-49	43-49½	44-48½
Standard 1st latex crepe ...	51½-57½	62½	54-57	57½-58	51-52½	48-51½	47-49½	49½-53½	53-53½	47½-48	47-51½	49½-49½
Second quality latex crepe ...	45½-64½	55-61½	51-61	50-57	40-53½	42-51½	40½-49	45-53½	45½-52½	42½-49½	43-50½	44-50
Lower grade crepe ...	39½-58½	49-54	47-55	43½-52	37-47½	37½-46½	37½-42½	39½-46	40½-46	36½-42½	35-42½	38-42½
Dark crepe ...	39-53	49-51½	46½-52	42-47½	38-43½	38-43½	36½-38½	40½-45½	40-43½	36½-41½	37-42	37½-41½

The increase in price was not such as to cause any reversion to former extravagance in administration of estates, and the year's experience has done much to standardise prices and methods of work. This will be to the benefit of the industry in maintaining expenditure at an economical level, even if the market price of the commodity should rise.

Two rubber factories continue in operation in Singapore. Experimental work on the vulcanisation of latex is being continued on an estate in Malacca and some of the articles and materials manufactured by this process appear to be very promising.

The necessity for preventing loss of valuable surface soil from clean cleared slopes, subject in this country to heavy rains, is now widely recognised by planters. Systems of catchment pits, terracing and the use of cover crops or plants such as citronella and lemon grass are in common vogue on estates.

In Province Wellesley and Penang Pink Disease (*Corticium salmonicolor*) is reported as being well under control, owing to the educative advice and the demonstrations of control measures given by the Inspecting Officers of the Agricultural Department.

Mouldy Rot (*Sphaeronema fimbriatum*) spread rapidly in Malacca during the year and is now present over the greater portion of that Settlement. This disease recurs from time to time on the estate which was originally infected and to which particular reference was made in last year's report. Outside this estate it is at present confined to small holdings. In some areas it is very prevalent, in others a few cases occur. Freedom of estate holdings from this disease is due partly to the fact that they have settled labour forces and do not employ coolies indiscriminately picked up, there being ordinarily therefore no contact with infected trees, and partly to better general conditions of sanitation enjoyed by estates.

Coconuts.—The price of copra rose from \$10.30 a pikul (133½ lbs.) at the beginning of the year to \$13.10 in April. It fell to \$9.75 in July and rose again to \$12.14 in December. The average price for the year was \$11.30. The price of nuts varied from 4 cents to 6 cents each at different places and times. These prices provided coconut cultivators with a considerable profit during the year. The outlook for this crop is satisfactory.

The selection work on coconuts referred to in the report for 1922 has been continued. This is a slow process and some time must elapse before definite results are available.

Inspecting officers throughout the year continued the work of destruction of breeding places for the Black Coconut Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) and Red-stripe weevil (*Rhynchophorus schach*). This is work which must go on from year to year. Fresh accumulations are always being formed. Old and fallen coconut trees, heaps of manure and village refuse, call for regular attention.

There were outbreaks of the serious caterpillar pest (*Artona catoxantha*) which affected coconuts at two localities in Province Wellesley during the dry weather of February and March. In the Province this pest is controlled largely by the fungus (*Botrytis* sp.) which appears most frequently on the pupae. Dry weather which checks the fungus assists the spread of the pest. Heavy rains are beneficial, both in assisting the spread of the fungus and, apparently, in destroying the adult moths. It is noticeable that outbreaks of this pest tend to recur in the same localities at intervals of a few years. The only method of control, as far as we know at present, that gives promise of efficiency, consists of spraying the tops of coconut trees. This is of course a difficult matter and an expensive one.

The favourable condition of the coconut and copra market during the last few years has been a satisfactory feature of a difficult period. It is, therefore, the more regrettable that the rush for rubber and large profits induced owners, even as recently as 1916 and 1917, to destroy so many of their palms. The fine growth and yield of these trees on many of the coastal lands of this Peninsula, the ease with which they can be cultivated, and the steady market for their produce render this industry a particularly suitable one for Malay small holders. It is greatly hoped that co-operative methods of marketing can be introduced in the near future for the benefit of proprietors of small holdings and that the considerable profits which they at present enjoy may be increased thereby.

One large mill in Singapore is carrying on the manufacture of coconut oil and copra cake. It is understood that it is difficult to dispose of the oil, but that the cake finds a ready sale in Australia. The manufacture of desiccated coconut at Butterworth appears to be thriving; the plant in the one factory in operation has been increased. The price of desiccated coconut products is fair.

Padi.—In Malacca the padi harvest for the season 1922-23 was a fair average. Unsuitable weather conditions had a prejudicial effect on the growing crop during 1922. Later, however, conditions improved and the crop is considerably better than at first expected. Increased yields were reported from the Southern District. In Penang and Province Wellesley damage was done by excess of water in the fields during harvest, but on the whole the crops were satisfactory.

In Malacca the crop for the season 1923-24 promises well in most districts. In Penang and Province Wellesley planting of the 1923-24 crop was damaged by the lateness of the seasonal rains, on some lands by as much as two months if compared with last year's planting. When the rains did arrive they were so heavy and persistent that much damage was done to nurseries and to newly planted areas by heavy flooding. These unfavourable weather conditions did not continue long enough to cause real alarm and the condition of the crop at the end of the year was not far below average.

As stated in last year's report the first year's results of experiments in the Padi Experimental Station, Malacca, were disappointing. During 1923 development work was continued, an additional area of land was acquired, ploughed and harrowed with a tractor. The station now contains an area of 23 acres. An area of 18 acres was prepared and planted with pure strains of padi from Krian and with a few well-known Malacca varieties from which it is intended to select pure strains. The growth during the year was somewhat uneven.

Eight strains of selected Krian padi were grown at the testing station in Province Wellesley. These gave satisfactory results, the yields being carefully recorded. These trials are being continued.

A manurial experiment is also being started in Province Wellesley. Ten acres of land have been leased for 6 years and planted with one pure strain of padi. No manure has been applied this year, it being necessary first to obtain comparative yields on the different plots as an indication of the variation in the soil.

Krian pure strain padi distributed in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca gave varying results. In some localities they did remarkably well and are being planted again. Other localities do not seem so suitable. It will take some time to discover suitable strains for varying soils.

Insect pests of padi did not give much trouble during the year. Some areas suffered badly from rats. In some places, as for example the Central District of Malacca, the use of Barium carbonate, supplied at cost price by the Department as a rat poison, is becoming popular among padi cultivators.

Other Crops.—In Penang and Province Wellesley fruit was plentiful and cheap at the usual season. No noticeable failure of any fruit crop is reported from Malacca. The cultivation of limes is being attempted on one estate in Malacca; the trees are still young, no results are as yet available.

The Pineapple Canning industry in Singapore appears to be thriving and the price of the canned fruit has been maintained at a good level. The price paid by the canners for the fruit, however, is not very remunerative to the growers.

The cultivation of Roselle fibre has not attracted much attention in the Colony. There is a local market in the Federated Malay States for supplies of this fibre for rope making and growers of small areas can consequently hope to dispose of their crop. Experience appears to show that this is not a crop which can economically be cultivated in small plots. It needs far too much care in cultivation and subsequently in the preparation of the fibre to warrant cultivation in kampongs on a very small scale.

The distillation of Patchouli oil in Singapore is being carried on at present by only one distiller who revived the industry in 1919. The leaves used by this distiller are obtained from plants grown in Sumatra by growers who are controlled by the distiller. The value of the oil has dropped considerably during the last year and is now only about \$8 per lb.

Several enquiries has been received by the Department of Agriculture from prospective buyers in England.

Experiments with Egyptian cotton were commenced on a small scale towards the end of the year on some high ground at the padi experimental station in Malacca. The first sowings were not very successful owing to the raw nature of the soil but subsequent sowings give signs of greater promise.

Some interest has been shown in the subject of cattle breeding and fodder grasses during the year and the Agricultural Department is rendering what assistance is possible.

A large collection of exhibits and photographs was prepared during the latter half of the year by the Agricultural Department for the Agriculture Section of the Malaya Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition. This work took a considerable time. A collection has been provided representative of existing agricultural products and of new products which might be successfully cultivated in this country.

(e) LAND.

(i).—LAND TENURE.

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town were issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under these titles, which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent, the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but it has now been decided to restrict in future the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Singapore eighteen and in Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases and Statutory Grants are being substituted for Permits and Expired Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of land in the town of Malacca has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. Occupied land in the country is, in some cases, held either under grant or lease from the Crown, but for the most part according to customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for alienation of foreshore.

The principal land revenue consists of rents on rubber, and of mukim assessment under customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE.

The Revenue in 1923 was thus distributed:—

—		Land Revenue.	Reimburse-ments.	Land Sales.	Total.
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Singapore	(1922	291,458	23,059	119,897	434,414
	1923	344,161	15,787	58,845	418,793
Penang	(1922	220,404	26,414	18,679	265,497
	1923	239,059	37,041	19,489	295,589
Malacca	(1922	532,060	6,346	37,608	516,014
	1923	671,900	10,023	51,511	733,434
Labuan	(1922	5,219	1,314	114	6,647
	1923	4,788	1,723	49	6,560
Total	(1922	1,049,141	57,133	176,298	1,222,572
	1923	1,259,908	64,574	129,894	1,454,376

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Singapore.</i>					
Area granted ...	392 3 25	340 3 34	454 2 17	731 1 07	1,783 0 04
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ...	204,130	131,908	49,766	84,822	123,743
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	83	88	30	114	64
Premia paid ...	\$348,235	\$1,780,736	\$92,308	\$188,476	\$131,476.00
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Penang.</i>					
Area granted ...	16 1 32	556 3 00	824 1 05	2,689 1 28	525 3 24
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ...	Nil.	Nil.	12,357	Nil.	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	1	83	84	394	127
Premia paid ...	\$2,457.50	\$15,422.00	\$11,061.50	\$26,555.50	\$12,978.16
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Malacca.</i>					
Area granted ...	4,214 0 08	1,919 2 38	1,590 1 32	1,124 0 31	2,348 0 16'96
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ..	20,190	15,957	6,522	21,600	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	219	108	39	116	273
Premia paid ...	\$77,207	\$50,176	\$42,790	\$52,843 00	\$72,345.00
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Labuan.</i>					
Area granted ...	...	1,403 1 26	185 0 16	228 3 09	59 2 35
.. Town Lots ...	17 1 17	...	5 0 00	Nil.	Nil.
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	73	290	221	Nil.	91
	(in exchange for old titles.)		(190 new Grants, 15 1 exchange for old titles & 6 sub-division grants.)		(55 new Grants, 17 sub-division Grants 19 in exchange for old grants.)
Premia paid ...	\$36	\$1,027.64	\$422 60	\$114.90	\$49.40

(f) FISHERIES.

“The amalgamation of the fisheries administration of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States except Pahang under a Fisheries Department with headquarters in Singapore was effected during the year. The western coastline of the Peninsula between the southern boundary of Kedah and the northern boundary of Johore was divided into three districts and a Malay Fisheries Officer, provided with a motor cruiser, was put in charge of each.

“It was decided to purchase in 1924 a Fisheries Experimental Vessel to test the seas on either side of the Peninsula with the Otter-board trawl, Danish seine, American purse seine and if possible modern drift nets and long lines. The area about the Peninsula, of sea less than 100 fathoms deep, is the largest in the world and has not as yet been efficiently tested by modern power methods. The Fisheries Experimental Vessel will provide data for assessing in local waters the value of those modern power methods, which, since 1885, have revolutionized the fisheries of Great Britain. There is good prospect of financial support both local and in England for the commercial exploitation of the Malayan fisheries by modern power methods, if the data provided by the Fisheries Experimental Vessel are favourable”.

III.—Legislation.

Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year 1923. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and ten were purely Amending Ordinances. Of the remaining fourteen, several (such as the Companies, Labour and Volunteer Ordinances) are essentially consolidating and only incidentally amending Ordinances. For the purposes of this Report, therefore, the Ordinances are classified as either purely Amending Ordinances or not purely Amending Ordinances.

The more important of the Ordinances which are not purely amending Ordinances are:—

- (i) The Colonial Treasury Bills Ordinance (No. 3) which gives the Legislative Council the power to authorise the Governor to issue in London, through the Crown Agents, Straits Settlements Treasury Bills.
- (ii) The Treasury Bills (Local) Ordinance (No. 4) which gives the Legislative Council the power to authorise the Governor to issue Straits Settlements Bills in the Colony.

- (iii) The Rubber Restriction Ordinance (No. 10) which provides for a system of export permits for a closer watch upon rubber which is exported from Singapore and Penang; for making the transfer of licences and coupons illegal; for a census of dealers' stocks; for returns by rubber manufacturers of dry rubber used in their factories; for extended powers of seizure in regard to suspected rubber and for requisition of information in regard to stocks.
- (iv) The Midwives Ordinance (No. 11) which confines the practice of midwifery to those only who are properly qualified. It also provides for the registration of qualified midwives and the control of such midwives by a Central Midwives Board.
- (v) The Labour Ordinance (No. 14) which removes all sections in the old Ordinance relating to offences by labourers and eliminates all penalties for breach of such sections. It further improves very materially, for the labourer, labour conditions in the Colony. This very important Ordinance was substituted for the Labour Ordinance, 1920, as a concession to the Indian Government in return for the granting of facilities for the emigration of Indian labour to Malaya.
- (vi) The Currency Ordinance (No. 15) which provides the Colony with currency legislation suitable to the circumstances of the present day.
- (vii) The Agricultural Loans Ordinance (No. 19) which repeals Ordinance No. 105 (Agricultural Loans) and provides that in future Government makes the loans.
- (viii) The Post Office Ordinance (No. 23) which revises thoroughly the law relating to the Post Office. Provision is made for the conveyance of mails by air; for "clubbed packets"; for cash-on-delivery postal articles; for the prohibition against the transmission of narcotics by post; for the interception of postal articles in time of emergency and in regard to the liability of Government and the Post Office for payment of compensation in case of loss of, or damage to, registered or insured articles in the course of transmission by post.

The old Government Savings Banks are converted into Post Office Savings Banks,

The principal purely amending Ordinances are:—

- (i) The Registration of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which provides that, in order to prevent an accumulation of provisionally registered deeds, a person who presents a deed for registration shall be deemed to have made an application for survey.
- (ii) The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) which increases the penalty to a maximum of one hundred dollars and six months' imprisonment and compulsory forfeiture of arms. The penalty under Ordinance No. 96 (Minor Offences) was only twenty dollars.
- (iii) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) which increases the penalty for unauthorised use of firearms by the addition of liability to six months' imprisonment.

Provision is made for the report to the Licensing Officer by an auctioneer in respect of any arms or ammunition entrusted to him for sale with particulars thereof and the address of the owner.
- (iv) The Municipal Amendment Ordinance (No. 18) which prevents the annual charge upon possession of an animal or a vehicle from being made twice over when such animal or vehicle is removed during the year from the limits of one Municipality to within those of another Municipality.
- (v) The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance (No. 25) which increases materially the penalties for extortion and for the various offences in connection with the law against carrying and dealing in arms, explosives and offensive weapons. This is a very important Ordinance. It substantially follows similar legislation in Hongkong.
- (vi) The Mahomedans (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 26) which provides for the administration of estates of Mahomedans who die intestate according to Mahomedan Law. It also provides that the Court may grant letters of administration to some person other than the next-of-kin of the deceased if such grant is considered necessary.

IV.—Communications.**(a) POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.**

- A. Letters addressed to for-
 eign countries ... { First oz. ... 12 cents.
 ... { each succeed-
 ... { ing oz. ... 6 „
- B. Letters addressed to places
 in the British Empire
 except those places
 named in C. ... { Per oz. ... 6 „
- C. Letters addressed to places
 in the Straits Settle-
 ments, the Federated
 Malay States, Kedah,
 Perlis, Kelantan, Johore,
 North Borneo, Sarawak,
 Brunei, Trengganu and
 Kemaman ... { First two
 ... { ozs. ... 5 cents.
 ... { each succeed-
 ... { ing ounce or
 ... { fraction there-
 ... { of ... 1 cent.
- D. Postcards addressed to:—
- (i) Foreign countries ... 8 cents.
- (ii) Places in the British Empire except those
 named in C ... 4 „
- (iii) Countries named in C ... 2 „
- E. Printed papers, for every two ozs. ... 3 „

except that the rate of postage on a newspaper—

(a) printed and published within the Straits Settle-
 ments or in any British Possession or Protected
 State in Malaya; or

(b) registered as a newspaper at the General Post
 Office, London, if posted in the Straits Settle-
 ments addressed to any place in the Straits
 Settlements, Federated Malay States, Johore,
 Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu (including
 Kemaman), North Borneo, Sarawak or
 Brunei, is 2 cents for any weight not exceeding
 4 ounces, and 2 cents for any additional weight
 provided that no enclosure which is not part of
 the newspaper or a supplement thereto is
 enclosed with the newspaper. If two or more
 copies are sent in a single packet, each news-
 paper shall be liable to the same postage as if
 posted separately, but in no case shall a packet
 of such newspapers be chargeable with a higher
 rate than that chargeable on a packet of printed
 papers of the same weight.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 16,189,992, an average of 18·09 per inhabitant, as against 15·56, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 12,143,922, as compared with 11,362,187 in 1922. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year 1923 was 452,426 as compared with 467,421 in 1922, whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph lines was 336,778 as compared with 318,053 in 1922. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone exchanges increased from 1,069 to 1,142.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1923 was \$2,202,487·08 an increase of 18 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1922. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was \$194·60. There was a profit on the year's working of \$30,191·44. The estimated present value of the investments is \$2,167,213·25.

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices at Penang, Malacca and Labuan, there are 38 Sub-offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Kreh, Penanti, Pinang-Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley). Of these 25 are Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1923 to \$5,279,543·42, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Ceylon, Great Britain, Netherlands East India and United States of America.

Ten Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	...	5, thence to Madras	(3)
		„ „ Colombo	(2)
		„ „ Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	1, thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1, thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1, Direct.	
Cochin China	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1, thence to Hongkong	(1).

There are also Government telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *via* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 616 miles of telegraph lines, 32½ miles

of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley containing 85 miles of wire and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile between Singapore and Johore containing $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire. There are 52,458 miles of telephone line in Penang and Province Wellesley and 1,336 miles in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the Exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

(b) COMMUNICATION BY SEA.

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India steamers *viâ* Madras and Bombay, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly services by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon; in addition there is a fortnightly service by the Steamship Company Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd; and at frequent intervals by the Holts, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines; with China and Japan a fortnightly service by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong and by Spanish packets direct; with Bangkok by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports by Netherlands India Company's steamers, with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australia Steam Navigation Company, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence of Orient Packets; with Madras (direct), and other ports on the Coromandel Coast, fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers; and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above, there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 23 to 26 days. Services are now normal.

(c) RAILWAYS.

A Railway traverses the Colony from Singapore to Woodlands, thence *viâ* a Causeway across the Johore Straits (which was opened for traffic in October, 1923) into the State of Johore and Federated Malay States, the main line affording direct communication to Seremban, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Prai, from the latter place connection to Penang is maintained by steam ferry.

There is a branch line from Gemas on the Southern border of the State of Negri Sembilan to Kuala Lipis in the State of Pahang, portions of this line now under construction, will, when completed, enable direct communication to be made with Singapore and the States of Kelantan and Siam.

There are feeder lines to the various ports of the Malay States connecting with the main line, and in addition a line runs from Prai in the north to Padang Besar, where connection is made with the Royal Siamese State Railways enabling passenger and goods traffic between the Federated Malay States and Siam to be conveyed direct by rail.

Ocean borne traffic is dealt with at the ports of Penang, Prai, Port Swettenham and Singapore, whilst coastwise shipping may in addition be dealt with at Port Weld, Teluk Anson, Port Dickson and Malacca.

(d) ROADS.

The metalled roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca) are Singapore 98·7 miles; Penang and Dindings 87 miles; Province Wellesley 168·2 miles; Malacca 239·8 miles; Labuan 5·8 miles.

In addition there are 176½ miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained in the various Settlements.

Of the 599½ miles of metalled road 181¼ miles are surfaced with asphalt.

During 1923 in Singapore 2¼ miles of road were improved and converted to granite surface from laterite while a further 3 miles of surface was asphalted.

In Penang the road on top of Telok Bahang Pass was improved and there is now a road with a good surface right round the island.

In Province Wellesley a further 5 miles of road was reconstructed to granite. Plans for a permanent bridge across the Krian River at Nibong Tebal were got out.

In Malacca some 6¼ miles of road were reconstructed to granite.

(e) PUBLIC WORKS.

Work in connection with the New General Hospital in Singapore made good progress while work in connection with the New Medical School and New Post Office was begun.

V.—Immigration.**(i).—CHINESE.**

The total number of immigrants from China arriving in the Colony during 1923 was 159,019, an increase of 16·4 per cent over the figure for 1922 but less than that for 1911, the highest year, by 110,835 or 41 per cent.

Adult males formed 72·3 per cent and adult females 14 per cent of the immigrants.

Conditions inimical to emigration from the inland districts of South China continued throughout the year under review. The land and water routes from the prefectures of Chiang Chiu, Choan Chiu and Heng Hoa in the province of Fuhkien to the sea-port of Amoy were blocked by opposing armies and Amoy itself suffered from Civil War during several months of the year. In addition during the last quarter of the year quarantine restrictions against steamers arriving from Hongkong were enforced and passage rates were raised. It is satisfactory, therefore, that the figures show an increase in immigration; any loss to Malaya from conditions preventing the arrival of intending immigrants was counterbalanced by the large excess of immigrants over emigrants, returning to China, whose numbers totalled only 78,121, thus leaving an excess of immigrants over emigrants of 80,898 or 50 per cent.

(ii).—SOUTHERN INDIANS.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 49,502 as compared with 58,674 in 1922.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 42,778 as against 45,733 in 1922.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Assisted immigrants ...	78,855	15,413	38,336	30,234
Other immigrants ...	16,365	30,260	20,338	19,268
	<u>95,220</u>	<u>45,673</u>	<u>58,674</u>	<u>49,502</u>

The assisted immigrants consisted of 26,868 adults and 3,366 minors. Of the adults 20,966 were men and 5,902 women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 12.54 per mille, and in the Dindings 8.02 per mille. The death-rate on estates in Penang was only 2 per mille.

During 1923, 242 adult and 19 minor decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The assessment rate was fixed at \$1 for the 1st quarter; \$1.50 for the 2nd quarter and \$2 for each of the 3rd and 4th quarters.

The Fund receipts amounted to \$925,195 and the expenditure was \$1,098,278, the difference being met by a corresponding decrease in fixed deposits.

(iii).—NETHERLANDS INDIAN.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,640. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force but approximately 79 local contracts for 300 days are in force in the Settlement of Penang.

VI.—Criminal and Police.

The total number of seizable offences reported to the Police during 1923 was 6,963 of which 6,687 were admitted as true. Of the admitted reports 3,756 resulted in cases which were dealt with by the Police Courts, District Courts, or Supreme Courts, convictions being obtained in 2,327 cases. In respect of serious offences against property there was a decrease of 10 in the number of murders, but an increase of 15 in the number of reports of attempted murder, while there was a decrease of 223 in the number of reports of causing hurt with dangerous weapons. As regards offences against property there was an increase of 64 in the number of robberies, a decrease of 13 in the number of gang-robberies, a decrease of 180 in the number of reports of housebreaking and a decrease of 154 in the number of reports of theft. Secret societies gave a good deal of trouble during the year in Singapore, and were responsible for a number of the murders and cases of wounding. They were also responsible for many cases of extortion. There were 41,146 non-seizable offences reported to the Police in 1923. The number of persons arrested in connection with reports both seizable and non-seizable was 31,423 males and 647 females.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,141 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca); 4,083 were admitted during the year as compared with 5,408 during 1922 and 4,030 were discharged during the year. 1,194 remained at the end of the year. There were 97 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,270 were admitted and 1,217 were discharged. Of the 1,217 vagrants discharged 67 found employment and 977 were repatriated.

“Middle-grade” prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, weaving, tile-making and mat and basket-making.

The “Upper-grade” men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the “Lower-grade” men at husk-beating and the “Short-sentence” and “Revenue-grade” men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

(a) POPULATION.

The population for 1923, is estimated on that of the census of 1921. The distribution is:—

	1922. <i>Estimated.</i>	1923. <i>Estimated.</i>
Singapore	... 441,458	457,571
Penang	... 307,519	310,781
Malacca	... 157,160	160,886

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The number of births registered during the year was 28,456 and the number of deaths was 25,925. The births this year exceed the deaths in all Settlements and the crude birth-rate was 32.43 per mille as compared with 30.59 in the previous year—a slight decrease.

The percentage of males born was 51.90, females 48.10. The highest birth-rate in any nationality was 36.65 per mille as against 37.71 in 1922, in both years Malay.

The Infantile Mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 208.96 per thousand births as against 207.52 in 1922. The increase for the last two years has been due to

the high death-rate of infants under one year in Malacca, which still shows the highest figure, 1,413 deaths amongst 5,642 births or 258·69 per thousand. It is to be expected that this rate will decrease as more Malay midwives are trained in our hospitals.

The number of deaths from infantile convulsions, mostly due to tetanus was 3,484 as against 3,146 in 1922.

The crude death-rate was 27·80 per thousand compared with 30·68 in 1922. This is the lowest on record. The highest racial death-rate for the year was 30·40 amongst "other nationalities" the lowest 8·28 amongst Europeans.

The deaths from pneumonia were 1,710 as against 1,608 and from influenza 162 as against 234 in the previous year.

Beri-beri accounted for 904 deaths as against 1,388 and 1,299 deaths in 1922 and 1921 respectively: a satisfactory decrease. Malaria and tuberculosis were responsible for 3,430 and 2,683 deaths respectively as compared with 3,977 and 2,966 in 1922. Fever unclassified was responsible for 3,064 deaths as against 3,043 in 1922.

Dysentery contributed 839 deaths and diarrhoea 411 as against 1,085 and 458 in 1922.

Infectious diseases.—There were 18 deaths from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 56 deaths from Plague, none from Cholera and 3 from Small-pox.

(c) CLIMATE.

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore for 1923, was 80·8° F; in Penang 81·9° F; in Province Wellesley 81·7° F; and in Malacca 82·00° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 84·4° and 76·5° F. The maximum recorded was 95° on 2nd March at Province Wellesley. The minimum was 68° F. on January 1st and September at District Hospital, Penang. The grass minimum in Singapore was 66° F. in September.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being pretty evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1912 to 1921, it is found in Singapore, that there is an annual average of 172 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period being 2,555 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest

year was 1913 with 3442·37 mm. and the driest was 1877, with 1482·7 mm. The average for the sixty-one years is 2396·5 mm. The force of the monsoons is not much left, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, viz.:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is nothing unusual to have south-east, south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1922.	1923.
Singapore	... 2587·25 mm.	1981·50
Labuan	... 2971·9 „	2957·8
Penang	... 3192·0 „	3443·0
Province Wellesley	... 2837·0 „	2612·75
Malacca	... 2168·5 „	2407·0

VIII.—Education.

There were 11 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 5,795 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was \$602,504.

There were 31 aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 13,574 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to \$565,034.

The expenditure on the 204 Government Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 16,024 was \$312,643.

There were 9 Aided Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 569, the grants to which for 1923 amounted to \$4,324.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,143 as against 991 in 1921 and 1,092 in 1922.

Thirty-seven students passed the final examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, compared with 29 in 1922.

There were 12 student teachers in residence at Hongkong University at Government expense. All of them were boys educated at English schools in Malaya. On their return they are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided schools.

The greatest educational event of the year was the restoration of the Queen's Scholarships. It was decided that two scholarships be given yearly by the Government of the Colony to boys or girls chosen at a special competitive

examination and approved by a selection board to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. The minimum amount of a scholarship will be £150 a year, but this may be increased to any sum not exceeding £500 after enquiry into the scholar's financial circumstances. In the absence of special permission, the scholars will be required to proceed to a residential College at Oxford or Cambridge so that they may have the advantage of the discipline and social life associated with those Universities. No scholarship will be tenable for more than six years.

Despite the recent improvements of the salary scheme and the unemployment in the United Kingdom, it was still very hard to recruit European officers for the Education Department. During the year two European masters appointed to the Malay Educational service were allocated to the Colony, but one of the existing staff resigned. Four new European mistresses were allocated to the Straits Settlements, but one of the four resigned before the end of the year. An Art Master for Singapore and a Physical Instructor for the Colony were recruited and have since taken up their duties.

The difficulty of recruiting European officers emphasises the fact that there must be an increasing number of openings for fully qualified local teachers as soon as Raffles College can train them. At the same time a nucleus of Europeans will be required to keep local education in touch with the latest theory and practice followed in the United Kingdom.

A new elementary school for boys at Geylang, Singapore, was opened. The conversion of the Malay College, Malacca, into a preparatory section of the English High School was completed.

The new Sultan Idris Training College for Malay vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The extension of the course from two to three years and the inclusion in the curriculum of manual training and practical lessons in rural science is providing teachers peculiarly qualified for the work of the vernacular schools.

The medical inspection of all schools and pupils is being undertaken with valuable results.

The appointment of a European Physical Instructor will stimulate still further the keen interest taken in athletics.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to meet a distinct want. Two hundred and thirty-nine students were enrolled. Twenty-one students passed the examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce. There were 36 students in the Science Classes. A class in Practical Chemistry was started and proved useful and popular.

In July a Conference was held in Singapore of representatives of the Education Department and of the Government and Aided English schools of the Colony and the Federated Malay States. Among the subjects discussed were the education in English of Malays, the development of industrial and technical education, text-books and the teaching of tropical hygiene.

Raffles College.—The accounts showed at the end of 1923 \$1,394,687 to the credit of the General Fund and the funds for Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing \$1,000,000 towards the cost of building. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to \$63,000 per annum have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years, amounting to \$655,000, have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

During the year a competition for designs for the new College Buildings was opened, any architect being eligible who was a British subject and resident anywhere within the British dominions. Mr. JOHN BEGG, F.R.I.B.A., late Consulting Architect to the Government of India, was appointed Assessor. The competition closed at the end of the year. It is expected that building will be started in 1924.

Dr. R. O. WINSTEDT, M.A., D.LITT. (Oxon.) of the Malayan Civil Service, continued to act as Principal. The College is administered by an Executive Committee.

E. S. HOSE,
Colonial Secretary.

SINGAPORE, 25th July, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923-1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922-1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	"
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923-1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923-1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands.. .. .	1923
1214	Fiji	"
1215	British Honduras	"
1216	New Hebrides	"
1217	Gibraltar	"
1218	Jamaica	"
1219	Sierra Leone	"
1220	Uganda	"
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent.. .. .	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General.. .. .	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1236.

SEYCHELLES

Report for 1923

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1191.)



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1925.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1236.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923.*

SITUATION AND AREA.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of S. latitude 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156½. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 90.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); St. Anne (500 acres); Providence (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles:—The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. Francois Island, St. Pierre Island, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, Farquhar and the Aldabra Islands.

HISTORY.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, in 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846 [Cd. 7622-37].

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV., from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's ship "Orpheus."

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became, after Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge, had left, the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was erected into a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

CLIMATE.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy, and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F. but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year.

The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

POPULATION.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, was estimated at 25,700, an increase of 1,177 since the census of 1921.

There were 108 marriages, the same number as in 1922.

The births in 1923 numbered 771, which corresponds to a rate of 30·62 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 297, or 11·79 per 1,000. This low death-rate constitutes a record and is partly due to the fact that no epidemics of any infectious or contagious disease occurred during the year.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.683,979, an increase as compared with 1922 of Rs.39,973. Customs revenue produced Rs.307,861 compared with Rs.283,004 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.597,940.

Although the total value of the trade of the Colony showed a slight decrease as compared with the previous year, the volume of trade was nevertheless satisfactory.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last three years.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
			<i>Rs.</i>			<i>Rs.</i>
1921	619,753	..	..	618,883
1922	644,006	..	..	536,482
*1923	683,979	..	..	597,940

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.331,148.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

			<i>Rs.</i>
On account of General Revenue	..	..	225,556
On account of Savings Bank	..	..	65,661

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £6,210 1s. 3d. A further sum of Rs.50,000 is also

*These figures do not include expenditure on the new hospital which is voted from surplus balances.

owing to Mauritius. This was borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1924 Estimates for the repayment of Rs.10,000 of this loan.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1923, was Rs.125,881, an increase of Rs.17,753 compared with 1922.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.3,422,958, as compared with Rs.3,508,030 in 1922. The total export of copra showed a substantial increase, while the export of essential oils showed a slight decrease.

Imports.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,643,059, compared with Rs.1,710,899 in 1922. The imports from the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs.132,152, while the imports from India increased by Rs.18,208.

Exports.

The total exports were valued at Rs.1,779,899, compared with Rs.1,797,131 in 1922.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

				Rs.
United Kingdom	..	..	..	697,216
British Possessions	..	..	..	297,151
France and French Colonies	..	..		756,697

Agriculture.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 3,475 tons as compared with 2,986 tons in 1922. Only about a quarter of a million coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with half a million the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs.48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.400 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic and lemon grass oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 38,415 litres valued at Rs.363,780.

The export in 1922 amounted to 43,366 litres.

Vanilla.—The low price of vanilla, together with the root disease to which it has been subject in this Colony, has caused what was at one time the most valuable export from Seychelle to become the least important. Very little vanilla was exported during the year, but it is anticipated, that the higher price commanded by this commodity at the present time will stimulate its production in 1924. It is also satisfactory to note that the vines now planted are withstanding the root disease.

Rubber.—Owing to the slump in the rubber industry throughout the world, the production of rubber has been practically abandoned and many trees have been cut down for firewood.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Rs.
Tortoise shell, 1,156 kilos	45,863
Calipee, 6,750 kilos	20,610
Salt fish, 27,297 kilos	6,249
Shark meat (dried), 4,675 kilos	1,330
Shark fins, 648 kilos	730
Trepangs, 1,050 kilos	525

The quantity of salt fish exported is still a great deal less than was exported before the War, when large quantities were shipped to Madagascar, Zanzibar, Mauritius and Reunion.

The export of guano during the year amounted to 9,783 tons, the declared value being Rs.192,140.

Negotiations were opened with a large whaling company with a view to the revival of the whaling industry in these waters. The negotiations unfortunately broke down after all the details had been settled.

LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year.

The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 1. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Licences."

No. 2. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law relating to certain Taxes on Properties."

No. 4. "An Ordinance to amend the Seychelles Penal Code, 1904."

No. 5. "An Ordinance to regulate the admission to practice as a Barrister or Attorney in Seychelles."

No. 7. "An Ordinance to impose a Tax on Incomes and to regulate the collection thereof."

No. 9. "An Ordinance to facilitate the raising of money on loan by way of privilege on crops in order to enable owners and others to carry on the cultivation of their land and to realise their crops."

No. 10. "An Ordinance to provide for the constitution, registration, control and encouragement of Co-operative Credit Societies."

EDUCATION.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 22 Grant-in-Aid Schools at which free elementary education is given. Eighteen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,740 children with an average attendance of 1,223 ; the remaining 4 schools are Church of England, attended by 220 pupils, with an average attendance of 142.

The average attendance has increased from 67·3 per cent. to 71·6 per cent. in the Roman Catholic Schools and decreased from 69·9 per cent. to 64·5 per cent. in the Church of England Schools.

There are also two small unaided Roman Catholic schools, one at Port Glaud with 16 pupils and one at Anse Boudin, Praslin, with 45 pupils. The latter school was opened in July, 1922.

At the Government Schools (Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School) education is free, but there is also a paying branch at the former where nominal fees are charged. Technical instruction in woodwork and instruction in physical exercises and in drill are given at the Victoria School. The number of pupils on the register was 266.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government Schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 202 and 141 pupils respectively ; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local and London Matriculation Examinations ; 36 candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examination, of whom 17 obtained a Preliminary, 10 a Junior and five a School Certificate. Eighteen candidates (girls) were also offered for the Higher Education of girls : of these 17 passed.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions and local scholarships. The total amount spent on Education was Rs.29,970, of which Rs.13,535 was a grant-in-aid to Primary Schools.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 15 miles, however, are suitable for motor traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.24,375 and the expenditure to Rs.21,655. The mail service during the year was good, and mails were despatched on 43 occasions.

The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once a month and on their return journey every other month. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being direct cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

J. BYRNE, *Brigadier-General*,
Governor.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

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1206	Cyprus	1923
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1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923-1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1215	British Honduras .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1216	New Hebrides .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1217	Gibraltar .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1218	Jamaica .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1219	Sierra Leone .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1220	Uganda .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1221	Grenada .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1222	British Guiana .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1223	St. Vincent .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1224	St. Helena .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	"
1225	Barbados .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1228	Hongkong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1232	Leeward Islands.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	1923
1235	Straits Settlements	1923

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88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent..	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1237.

TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1923-24.



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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1925.

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No. 1237.

REPORT ON THE TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FOR THE YEAR 1923-24.*

The Kingdom of Tonga embraces the groups of islands of Tongatabu, Haabai and Vavau, together with the outlying islands of Niuafoou, Niuatobutabu and Tafahi.

The main group was discovered by Tasman in 1643.

Niuatobutabu and Tafahi were named Keppel and Boscawen respectively by Wallis in 1767.

Niuafoou was discovered by Captain Edwards in H.M.S. "Pandora" on 3rd August, 1791, and named by him Proby Island. It is considered to be the Good Hope island of Schouten.

Captain Cook visited the islands on his second voyage in 1773, and again on his third voyage in 1777. On account of the disposition of the natives he named the group the Friendly Islands.

In the year 1845 George Tubou I, who by conquest had gathered all power into his own hands was proclaimed King of Tonga, and set up a monarchy. In 1888 a constitutional form of government was established. By the Constitution, the powers of the Sovereign were strictly limited. A Legislative Assembly was created composed of the Ministers of the Crown, thirty-two nobles and an equal number of elected representatives of the people. The King appointed his own Ministers, who held the principal offices in the Government and were members of the Privy Council and Cabinet.

The Constitution granted in 1888 is the Magna Charta of the Tongan people to-day, and, except for a few amendments, notably a reduction in the number of the members of the Legislative Assembly, remains the same.

Queen Salote Tubou, the present Queen, succeeded to the throne on the death of her father, King George Tubou II, on 29th April, 1918.

A Protectorate was proclaimed over Tonga on 19th May, 1900, under which Great Britain assumed the exercise of civil and criminal jurisdiction over all subjects of foreign powers in Tonga, and an Agent and Consul was appointed to advise the Queen and Government of Tonga and to supervise the financial administration of the Kingdom.

The seat of Government is at Nukualofa, on the island of Tongatabu.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 870 [Cd. 7622-61].

I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Socially and politically the year 1923 was uneventful. As a result of the firmness of the copra market, and the absence of hurricanes, trade was good, as the figures under that heading indicate. Probably the most notable event of the year was the extension to Tonga of the direct steamship service (Clan Line) from the United Kingdom to Fiji. The first of these vessels called at Tongan ports in October, too late in the year to affect the value of direct importations for the period under review. The service is a two-monthly one and the vessels usually call at two of the three ports of entry in the group. The benefit to Tonga of this service will be considerable, as transhipment charges are avoided on inward and outward cargoes and lower freight rates are obtainable.

II. FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1923-24. (The financial year begins on 1st July) :—

<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
		£			£
1919-20	..	79,928	1919-20	..	55,533
1920-21	..	90,765	1920-21	..	66,511
1921-22	..	59,848	1921-22	..	75,365
1922-23	..	68,949	1922-23	..	72,149
1923-24	..	81,023	1923-24	..	61,796

There were no changes in taxation or currency during the year.

There is no public debt. All administrative charges and expenditure on public works are provided from revenue. At 30th June, 1924, the surplus funds amounted to £97,811, most of which is invested in war bonds and Government stock, the balance being on deposit.

III. ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

Imports and Exports.

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Total trade.</i>
		£	£	£
1919	.. ..	184,523	193,169	377,692
1920	.. ..	383,759	374,836	758,595
1921	.. ..	259,969	206,275	466,244
1922	.. ..	133,393	217,518	350,911
1923	.. ..	195,020	267,619	462,639

The value of imports from the United Kingdom and British possessions for the year 1923 was £189,360 and, of the balance, goods to the value of £5,480 were imported from the United States of America.

Agriculture.

The trade of Tonga depends almost entirely on the copra industry and, while there is a steady increase in the output of copra, variations in the annual volume of trade are very largely a reflection of the price of that commodity in the world's markets. During the period under review 14,339 tons of copra, valued at £257,009, were exported, i.e., 96·03 per cent. of the total value of exports.

An unsuccessful attempt was made during the year by the Government to re-establish the banana trade with New Zealand.

In 1910 regular shipments of fruit were made by a monthly direct steamship service to New Zealand, but on its discontinuance the market for fruit was lost and native growers cannot be induced to plant in sufficient quantities to obtain a renewal of the direct service.

The importance of establishing the fruit trade is recognized by the Government and arises from the fact that these islands are within the hurricane belt and are occasionally visited by gales that do much damage to plantations. The coconut trees receive a severe set back for several years whereas banana plantations are not affected to the same extent nor for such a long period.

As every Tongan taxpayer is entitled by law to receive a tax allotment of 8½ acres, and as the quantity of land available is limited, the policy of the Government is not to encourage the lease of large areas to Europeans.

Small areas are, however, obtainable on lease at annual rentals varying from 4s. to 10s. per acre and for periods not exceeding fifty years with the option of renewal at increased rentals.

European planters, however, are faced with the problem of procuring labourers in sufficient numbers and at wages that make planting operations a payable undertaking.

IV. LEGISLATION.

Twelve acts were passed during the year 1923, none of which calls for special comment, except perhaps Act No. 2, the Import and Export Duties Amendment Act, under which the duty on cinematograph films imported for use is reduced from 2s. 6d. per roll to 4d. per 1,000 ft. if exported within three months. New bags or sacks for copra were added to the free list.

V. EDUCATION.

Education for Tongans is compulsory. At the end of 1923 there were 74 Government and 43 Denominational Primary Schools with a daily average attendance for the year of 4,605. These schools are subject to annual examination by Government

inspectors, and the reports for the year show that the percentage of passes obtained was 44·05, as compared with 42·6 for the previous year.

In addition to the above schools, which are for Tongans only and are staffed by Tongan teachers, there is one Wesleyan school, one Anglican and one Roman Catholic school for European children at Nukualofa, and a public school at Vavau. The last named receives a grant-in-aid from public funds. Competent European teachers are in charge of these schools.

Secondary education for Tongans is provided at the Government College at Nukualofa, at the Wesleyan College for boys at Nafualu and at the Wesleyan College for girls at Nukualofa. At these institutions the European masters are assisted by Tongan teachers and the classes are conducted on an English basis.

Carpentry is taught at the Government College, but with this exception there was no technical or industrial education. Arrangements have, however, been made to attach a number of ex-college students to the Public Works and Agricultural Departments next year for training.

VI. VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of Tongan subjects on 31st December, 1923, was 24,673, showing an increase of 252 as compared with the estimated population at the close of the year 1922.

The birth-rate per 1,000 for the year was 33·21, as against 37·02 in 1922; and the death-rate 22·68, as against 22·1.

The total population at the last census (1921) was :—

Tongans..	..	..	..	..	..	23,759
Europeans	..	..	..	..	..	571
Half-castes	..	..	..	..	..	235
Other natives of Pacific Islands	..	..	..	..	..	370
						<hr/> 24,935 <hr/>

VII. CLIMATE.

Although the Tongan group lies between latitudes 16 and 22 degrees south, and is therefore within the tropics, the climate is probably the best of any of the islands in the Western Pacific. For eight months of the year, that is from May to November inclusive, the thermometer rarely registers higher than 83°, and as the humidity is comparatively low during these months Europeans do not feel the heat to the same extent as in the groups to the north.

During the wet season, that is from December to March (inclusive), the temperature ranges from 65° to 94°, with a higher humidity. Malaria and other tropical fevers are unknown.

The following table shows the maximum, minimum and mean temperatures for each month, together with the rainfall and the number of days upon which rain fell :—

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Maximum.</i>	<i>Minimum.</i>	<i>Mean.</i>	<i>Rainfall.</i> <i>in.</i>	<i>No. of days</i> <i>on which</i> <i>rain fell.</i>
January ..	93·5	65	79·2	11·92	17
February ..	92·5	69	80·7	4·36	16
March ..	91·5	67	79·2	16·23	18
April ..	89	61·5	75·2	6·25	5
May ..	84·5	56	70·2	16·19	15
June ..	81	52	66·5	2·66	5
July ..	81	52	66·5	4·16	7
August ..	84·5	52	68·2	1·97	6
September ..	82	52	67·0	3·06	7
October ..	88·5	52·5	70·5	·67	2
November ..	87	57·5	72·2	1·65	9
December ..	92	62	77·0	6·33	7

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS.

There is a regular monthly steamer service from New Zealand via Fiji and Samoa. A steamer of the Union Steamship Line leaves Auckland every four weeks for Nukualofa calling at Fiji (Suva). From Fiji the vessel calls at Samoa (Apia), Vavau, Haapai and Nukualofa, returning again to Fiji and Auckland. Every alternate month the above order is reversed, and from Fiji the steamer calls at Nukualofa first, then at Haapai, Vavau, Samoa and back to Fiji and Auckland.

Passengers, goods and mails from Sydney and from the Canadian Australasian Royal Mail Line of steamers are transhipped at Suva, Fiji, for the other islands, including the Tongan ports.

In addition to the above there is a two-monthly direct service from the United Kingdom via Fiji, and at irregular intervals cargo steamers call at Tonga for copra for American and Continental ports.

There is a telephone system and a wireless station at Nukualofa. The latter works in connection with the wireless service at Fiji, thence by the Pacific Cable Board service to all parts of the world. It has been decided to establish a sub-station at Vavau for internal communications only.

Postal communication throughout the three main groups is good and mails are conveyed by sailing vessels at fairly frequent though not at regular intervals.

On Tongatabu, which is the largest island of the group, there are about 30 miles of metalled road suitable for motor traffic, the number of registered motor vehicles at 31st December, 1923, being 58.

I. McOWAN,

H.B.M.'s Agent and Consul,
Tonga.

Nukualofa, Tonga.

3rd October, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

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1214	Fiji	"
1215	British Honduras	"
1216	New Hebrides	"
1217	Gibraltar.. .. .	"
1218	Jamaica	"
1219	Sierra Leone	"
1220	Uganda	"
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados.. .. .	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
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1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles.. .. .	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

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92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1240.

ST. LUCIA.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1169).



LONDON:

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ST. LUCIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

Though uncertain, it is generally accepted that St. Lucia was discovered by Christopher Columbus on 18th June, 1502. Some doubt, however, is thrown upon this belief by a French tradition to the effect that its discovery was made by French shipwrecked seamen in December of a later year, who named the Island St. Alouziel or St. Alousie.

The largest of the Windward Islands, St. Lucia is 27 miles in extreme length and 14 miles in greatest breadth, its area being estimated at 233 square miles. It is situated in latitude 14° north and longitude 62° west, with Martinique in view about 20 miles to the north and St. Vincent about 25 miles to the south. On a clear day the historic Diamond Rock, or "H.M.S. Diamond Rock," can clearly be seen off the coast of Martinique. At its northern extremity lies Pigeon Island, famous for Rodney's Fort and Look-out, from whence the movements of the French fleet under de Grasse were observed prior to its total defeat by Admiral Rodney off the coast of Dominica in 1782. Pigeon Island was later used as a military station, but for a number of years has been abandoned for that purpose. The village of Gros Islet and the bay of that name are opposite Pigeon Island.

Rat Island, lying off the coast between Vigie and Choc, is fitted as a quarantine station. Fortunately, it is more often in demand as a holiday resort.

Vigie promontory forms the northern boundary of Castries harbour. On its highest point is a lighthouse and the signal station of the port. There are numerous War Department buildings at Vigie now much sought after and rented as private residences.

Government House, the official residence of the Administrator, is a commodious building beautifully situated on a spur of the Morne some 500 ft. above sea-level, and commanding unrivalled views of the surrounding scenery.

On the summit of Morne Fortuné, which rises 800 ft. above Castries, there is further extensive barrack accommodation, and this also is to some extent rented as private residences. Castries harbour, on the north-west end of the island, possesses excellent natural advantages. Ships drawing up to $27\frac{1}{2}$ ft. of water can anchor with safety upon its sheltered waters. It is

on record that in 1899 the United States of America Squadron, comprising three battleships, two cruisers, and two second-class cruisers, and also one Dutch warship were safely berthed in the harbour without interfering with the regular business of the port, ten steamers having called during their stay, seven of which coaled. The town of Castries is built upon what is for the most part reclaimed land at the northern end of the harbour. It is well laid out and possesses good wharves for shipping. Nowhere in the West Indies can ships lie alongside so safely and be coaled and watered with such convenience and speed.

The important sugar plantations and factories of Cul de Sac and Roseau are some miles south of Castries. Each possesses a sheltered bay from which crops may be shipped.

Marigot harbour, the villages of Anse-la-Raye and Canaries are on the western coast. The picturesque town of Soufriere nestles at the feet of the two Pitons. These imposing cone-shaped mountains rise sheer out of the water, the greater to the height of 2,619 ft., the lesser to the height of 2,461 ft.

A most interesting volcanic crater is to be found two miles from the town of Soufriere and about 800 ft. above sea-level. There are a number of perpetually active boiling cauldrons of black water and mud from which issue large quantities of steam : around the sides there is a quantity of sulphurous and iron deposits. There are two furnished houses close by which are frequently used as health resorts. Hot sulphurous baths may be had at the bath house there, and lower down the valley at "Diamond." The first baths were established as far back as 1784 by Baron de Laborie near Soufriere for the use of invalids.

Further down the coast are the villages of Choiseul, Laborie, and Vieuxfort. The last mentioned is situated at the southern extremity of the island and possesses an extensive sugar plantation and factory. Cape Moule a Chique, on the highest point of which, 733 ft. above sea-level, there is a lighthouse fitted with a modern flash-light visible 40 miles out to sea, is the most southerly point.

On the east, or windward, coast are the villages of Micoud and Dennery, the latter having a large sugar estate and factory just outside its boundaries. Marquis and Dauphin lie to the north of Dennery. Marquis valley is a well-managed and fertile pasture ; unfortunately, at present it lacks suitable road communication with Castries. It is claimed that the Empress Josephine was born near Dauphin, and was afterwards baptised at Martinique.

The expected completion in 1924 of a new, first-class and up-to-date hotel, situated in an unrivalled position 300 ft. above Castries, should prove an attraction to tourists. From its pleasant surroundings excursions may be made by road and sea to the numerous points of historic and scenic interest in which the Colony abounds.

II.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Taken generally, the health of the Colony was good during the year. Owing to an epidemic of alastrim in Dominica and Martinique very rigorous quarantine regulations were enforced. The disease made its appearance here, but thanks to unceasing vigilance and inspection it did not reach the proportions of an epidemic. The people generally willingly assisted in the vaccination campaign that was instituted, and 80 per cent. of the whole population of over 53,000 were vaccinated or re-vaccinated, the outbreak being limited to 18 cases. No deaths from the disease were recorded. The hookworm eradication campaign continued in operation during 1923. An area in the neighbourhood of Castries was chosen for re-survey and satisfactory results were obtained. In this connection the question of sanitation is of vital importance, and in this respect 1923 was productive of good results though the most constant and careful supervision was necessary.

The Chief Medical Officer is responsible for the general supervision of matters of health and sanitation in the Colony.

Victoria Hospital, the principal hospital, is situated within half a mile of Castries. A Resident Surgeon is in charge, and he is assisted by a staff consisting of a European matron with local nurses and dispensers. There is a ward with six rooms assigned to paying patients of which extensive use is made.

This institution has a good reputation, and patients speak highly of the skill and attention of the staff.

There are three small district casualty hospitals close to the principal local dispensaries of Soufriere, Vieuxfort, and Dennery.

The Pauper and Leper Asylums are situated in the Soufriere district, and are supervised by the Medical Officer of the district and a Visiting Advisory Committee.

The treatment of yaws has been successfully carried forward. The yaws hospital was finally closed for the purpose in September, 1923, a striking testimony to the efficacy of the dispensary treatment of yaws by injections of arseno-benzol compounds.

On 31st December, 1922, the resident population of the Colony was estimated to have been 24,399 males and 28,822 females, making a total of 53,221. On 31st December, 1923, this figure had increased to 53,847 (males 24,764 and females 29,083). The natural increase during the year was 717, but departures from the Colony exceeded arrivals by 91, so that the net addition was only 626.

The number of inhabitants to the square mile was 231.

Births during the year numbered 2,067, 1,092 males and 975 females. The number of deaths recorded was 1,350, 657 males and 693 females. The birth-rate was 35·8, and the death-rate 22·5 per 1,000 of the population. Illegitimate births numbered 1,310, or 633·7 per 1,000 of the total births.

No deaths from snake-bite were returned. The danger from venomous reptiles is much exaggerated. The most dangerous snake, the fer-de-lance, is being gradually exterminated through the introduction of the mongoose and the advance of cultivation. In addition, the Government pays 6d. for every serpent head brought to the various police stations and this helps considerably in the process of extirpation. They are never met with in or near the towns.

There is good river and sea fishing. At certain times of the year shooting can be obtained.

The prosperity of the Colony is mainly dependent upon agriculture. In this respect there was improvement in the price received for sugar during the year, but cocoa continued to feel the slump which commenced in 1921.

Extensive banana cultivation has been started and should prove of great benefit to the Colony.

There is an abundant supply of fruit, vegetables and fish, which forms the staple food of the population.

Coaling, for which there are exceptional facilities, still affords considerable, though irregular, occupation for a number of labourers in and around Castries.

The foundation stone of the Carnegie Public Library was laid on 15th May, and building operations commenced.

"Poppy Day" was observed this year for the first time in St. Lucia, and resulted in a sum of £75 being collected for Earl Haig's Fund for Disabled Soldiers.

H.M.S. "Valerian" visited the Colony in December.

The construction of public tennis courts in the Botanic Gardens was commenced.

His Excellency Sir George Haddon-Smith, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands, proceeded on leave in November prior to retirement, and Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Administrator, acted as Governor from the 2nd of that month. The latter officer acted as Governor from the 16th to the 25th March also, while Sir George Haddon-Smith was in Trinidad.

III.—FINANCIAL.

The local revenue received during the year amounted to £77,077, or £13,668 more than in the previous year. The expenditure, however, exceeded the revenue by £11,896, being £88,973, or only £268 less than in 1922. It is expected that economies which have been effected will reduce expenditure considerably during the present year, while improving trade conditions should increase the revenue by some £6,000 in 1924. Charges on account of public debt and for advances by the Crown Agents and Colonial Bank are a heavy drain on the Colony's resources. The accounts for the year closed with a deficit of £54,072, or an increase of £11,896 over the deficit at the end

of 1922, the net excess of liabilities over assets being £45,368. The public debt of the Colony stood at £147,529, and the accumulated sinking fund for its redemption £44,118 on the 31st December, 1923.

The coinage of Great Britain is the currency of the Colony, while local Government currency notes of the value of 10s. and 5s. are in circulation, as well as the notes of the Colonial Bank and Royal Bank of Canada, both of which have branches in Castries. Each of these banks has savings banks, and there is, in addition, a Government Savings Bank, all of which do a fair amount of business, the latter's balance at close of year being £13,657.

The imperial weights and measures are in use in the Colony.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of imports in 1923 was £249,589, an increase of £60,589 over 1922. Exports increased by £27,753 from £175,479 in 1922 to £203,232 in the year under review. Both of these returns are, however, much less than during the war years, a fact which is in some measure due to the higher prices of living in those days. Sugar cane, limes, coconut products and cocoa are the chief exports.

Bunker coal shipped in 1923 was valued at £50,762, and though better by some £21,170 than in 1922 was far short of the average for the previous twenty years. With the increase in the number of oil-bunkering vessels it is more than doubtful if the coal trade here will ever return to its former dimensions, and it would be to the interest of the firms which control that trade here to see the necessity for venturing into the oil-bunkering business, as the excellent water and land facilities make Port Castries an ideal harbour for such work. If they are unwilling to do so there would be an opportunity for outside capital to come in and develop what might prove to be a lucrative trade.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

Unfavourable weather was accountable for a decrease in the sugar output for 1923. Better prices were, however, received for the product during the year.

The quantity of rum made at local distilleries also shows a decrease.

Cocoa, extensively grown throughout the Colony, remained low and depressed, prices ranging from 36s. to 51s. per cwt.

The price of concentrated lime juice continued low for the greater part of the year. The gathering of limes, consequently, was indifferently carried out. Export suffered accordingly. Large quantities of green limes, however, were exported.

The coconut crop is increasing yearly, a number of planters have realised the value of extending this crop. Exports of coconuts and copra for 1923 show a satisfactory increase.

Nutmegs (and mace) though not very extensively grown prove a satisfactory export crop.

Logwood, cedar, roofing shingles, charcoal, and firewood were exported in substantial quantity.

Some progress is being made in the planting of tobacco, camphor, African oil palm and sisal hemp. There is room for much development in these directions.

Bay-rum is now an important minor industry, the factories showing an encouraging increase of 75 per cent. in the exported product in addition to the bay-rum utilised locally.

Increased interest has been shown in the cultivation of Sea Island cotton. There are considerable areas suitable for this crop which so far are free from "pink bollworm."

Beekeeping is carried on and is improving. The mixing of wild bees and the consequent lowering effect this has on production has to be dealt with. The export of honey and wax for 1923 shows a marked advance.

Extensive banana cultivation, a new and important industry, has been started and should prove of great value to the Colony. Already labour has benefited considerably, approximately 400 men and women being employed regularly during 1923 in clearing hillside and forest.

An endeavour is being made to arouse interest in castor-oil production, and the establishment by private enterprise in 1924 of a coconut and castor-oil mill will, it is hoped, stimulate the interest of growers.

The teaching of agriculture in the primary schools, where treated seriously by the pupils, should prove of great benefit to the Colony in the future if the theory and practice as now being taught is put to practical use on leaving school.

The working of Agricultural Credit Societies during 1923 was most unsatisfactory. The advances are, almost without exception, used to pay off interest on heavily mortgaged properties and not for the extension and improvement of cultivation as intended. These societies are now being dissolved as rapidly as advances are re-paid.

Cattle, sheep, and horses are of poor quality and, when finances permit, the introduction of fresh stock is urgently needed.

High freights and uncertain and expensive inter-island communication tend to restrict the small-holder from sending perishable goods to the ready markets in other islands, and hinder the free exchange of products between the nearer islands.

Grants of approximately 38 allotments of Crown Lands of from 5-10 acres in extent and one of 137 acres were made in 1923. There is still a considerable area of Crown Lands available for disposal which is most suitable for planting. To a prospective

planter possessed of small capital, industry and initiative there are good prospects, a life in a pleasant climate and educational facilities for children.

V.—EDUCATION.

Primary education is free and compulsory. There are 49 denominational schools. Although education is compulsory between the ages of 6-14 years little more than half the children of school age attend. The teaching is greatly hampered by the prevalence of French "patois."

Grants-in-aid are made to these schools, mainly for the payment of teachers' salaries. The Inspector of Schools, a Government officer, is in charge of the administration of the grants.

Except for the Roman Catholic Sisters, the teachers are all natives of the Colony or neighbouring Colonies. Facilities for training of teachers or higher rates of pay to attract more highly-qualified teachers are urgently needed.

English, reading, writing, arithmetic, the elements of grammar, geography and hygiene are taught. In the upper classes boys are taught elementary agricultural science, both practical and theoretical, and the girls needlework and domestic economy. The results generally are good.

Secondary education is supplied by St. Mary's College for boys, and St. Joseph's Convent School for girls, both situated in Castries. These schools prepare their pupils for the Cambridge University Local Examinations and the London University Matriculation Examination. Pupils have attained considerable success in these examinations. An annual scholarship of £175 per annum, known as the St. Lucia Scholarship, was established in 1918. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London University Matriculation Examination to candidates having the requisite local and residential qualifications. A choice of Universities, or of Agricultural, Scientific or Technical Colleges or Institutions in Europe, Canada or the United States approved by the Governor in Council is permitted. The scholarship is tenable for not less than three and not more than five years according to the time required for the completion of the course of study sanctioned. Up to 1923 five scholarships have been awarded.

VI.—CLIMATE.

The climate of St. Lucia, always very much maligned, is generally healthy. Every sanitary precaution is taken, and the health of the island compares favourably with any of the West Indian Colonies. There are two seasons, the dry season usually beginning in January and ending in May, and the wet season lasting from June to December. The climate is singularly mild. On the hillsides around Castries, where many of the best residences are located, it is pleasantly cool. On the Morne Fortuné a delightful breeze is almost invariably to be found.

The mean temperature varies from 70° to 72° during the cool season, when it sometimes goes as low as 65° at night. During the hot season 90° has been recorded. The temperature records obtained from the Meteorological Station at Reunion show a mean noon temperature of 80° in the shade and a mean night temperature of 72·4°. The range of temperature was 24° (91°—67°).

The mercurial mean pressure gives an average of 30·02.

The rainfall for 1923 was 71·57 in. at the Botanic Station, Castries.

Thunderstorms are not frequent and accidents from lightning rare.

Slight earthquake shocks are occasionally felt.

VII.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The road system of the island, owing to lack of funds, has perforce to advance slowly. There are now maintained by the Government 125 miles of main roads, 130 miles of byways, and 84 miles unclassified roads, of which 126 miles are suitable for, and much used by, motor traffic.

Passenger motor bus services are regularly maintained between Castries and Dennery and Vieuxfort and Soufriere.

The Government 50-ton motor launch supplies a regular service between Castries, Soufriere, Vieuxfort, and the villages of Anse-la-Raye, Canaries and Laborie.

There is a telephone system throughout the Colony, the nine exchanges being connected by 94 miles of trunk lines, giving 206 connections over 283 miles of wire.

Mail communication is maintained by (1) a regular fortnightly steamer service to Canada and other West Indian Colonies, and (2) a monthly service via Martinique to Europe by means of the French mail steamer. There are other and frequent mail opportunities via Barbados and America, and direct to Europe.

Telegraphic communication is maintained by the West India and Panama Company, and there is also a Government Wireless Telegraph Station. Reconstruction of both these systems is expected in 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

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89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlements
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of northern part of the F torate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the by the High Commission the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1241.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923-24 see No. 1202.)



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No. 1241.

BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924.*

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, "cays," and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and to the north of Cuba. It is said that there are about seven hundred islands and "cays," and over two thousand rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles, or one half the size of Wales. Some twenty-five of the islands are inhabited, the principal being Abaco, Acklins, Andros, the Biminis, Cat Island (or San Salvador), Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama, Harbour Island, Inagua, Long Cay, Long Island, New Providence, Ragged Island, Rum Cay, and Watling's Island.

2. New Providence, though not one of the larger islands, is easily the most important, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and nearly a quarter of the total population of the Colony. Harbour Island was the first island settled by the adventurers who laid the foundations of the present Colony. Watling's Island (called, by Columbus, San Salvador) was the first land seen in the New World by the great explorer.

3. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow and low-lying, and, except in the cases of Abaco, Andros and Grand Bahama, not well wooded. There are no mountains and very few hills. In spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture that is not easily forgotten.

4. The population of the Colony is approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves, but with probably a larger proportion of whites than in any other West Indian colony. During the winter months the islands, especially New Providence, are the resort of a large number of American tourists.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 849 [Cd. 7622-10].

5. When the Bahamas were first discovered, in 1492, they were inhabited by Caribs, who were soon removed to Cuba by the Spaniards to work in the mines. The islands were visited at an early date by the settlers of Bermuda, and in 1647 the Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands. The Bahamas had already been included, as early as 1629, in a Royal grant, but the company now received them in a grant from Parliament, while a third grant was made by Charles the Second in 1670 vesting the islands in six of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina. In 1717 the Lords Proprietors surrendered their rights to the Crown.

6. From a very early date the infant Colony was harassed by the Spaniards, who, on several occasions, sacked the settlements and drove out the inhabitants. The worst of these visitations occurred in 1684 and 1703, but on each occasion the undaunted colonists returned as soon as they could and patiently built up again the work which had been destroyed. The Colony was surrendered to a fleet of the American rebels in 1776, and again to the Spaniards in 1781, but was speedily retaken by a British force.

II.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

7. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, aided by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Receiver-General are members *ex officio*, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the legislature.

8. The Legislative Council consists generally of nine members nominated by the Crown. The House of Assembly is composed of twenty-nine members, elected for fifteen districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property of the value of £200. The out islands seldom return a member of their own community, their twenty-one representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5, or the occupation of houses of the rental value of £2 8s. 0d. in New Providence, or half that amount in the out islands. At the last election there were 14,551 registered electors, which was over 27 per cent. of the population. Women have not the vote. There will be a general election in 1925.

9. Even before the Royal Grant of 1670 the settlers had evolved for themselves a form of government which included an elective House of Assembly, and the constitution then formed has lasted with little modification to the present day. The inhabitants are naturally proud of the constitution, which they have been able to preserve in spite of all vicissitudes, and it has been the means of preserving amongst them an intense local patriotism and a keen interest in the administration of the Colony.

10. The Crown owns a considerable amount of land in the various islands, and the receipts from the sale and leases of these Crown lands (£2,684 in 1924) are placed to the credit of a special fund, which is administered by the Governor, under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council, and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and, by voting sums to a number of Boards, composed largely of members of the Legislature, the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

11. The Colony had a small but representative exhibit at the British Empire Exhibition during 1924.

12. The lack of remunerative industries in the out islands has in the past caused a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and many of the islands were being gradually depopulated. The new United States immigration law, which came into force during the year, has put an abrupt stop to this movement of the population, and although it is likely to cause some personal hardship at first there can be little doubt that the Colony as a whole will benefit, especially if the people turn to agriculture for a livelihood.

13. The general health of the community has been good. Towards the end of the year investigations were being made by an expert as to the possibility of establishing in Nassau a pipe-borne water supply and a sewage system, both of which are very necessary.

III.—GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

14. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

			<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
			£	£
1919-20	...	...	204,296	108,939
1920-21	...	...	254,019	269,495
1921-22	...	...	470,987	267,402
1922-23	...	...	852,573	377,164
1923-24	...	...	553,375	452,044

15. The revenue in 1913-14 was £100,753, and in 1918-19 it had sunk to £81,049. The estimated revenue for the current financial year (1924-25) is £387,216, and it is probable that this amount will be realised.

16. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1924, of £758,576. Of this sum about £383,000 was invested in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. £445,000 of the assets represent loans at 3 per cent. interest to the New Colonial Hotel Company, and the Golf Course Company. The Public Debt at the same date amounted to £20,219.

17. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony, but there is a large quantity of United States currency and British currency notes in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations—20s., 10s., and 4s.—and £60,000 worth of these notes are now in circulation.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

18. *Trade*.—The approximate total value of the trade of the Bahamas during the year 1924 was as follows :—

	£
Imports	1,584,000
Exports	626,000
Total (excluding specie)	<u>£2,210,000</u>

a decrease of about £1,732,000 on the trade of the preceding year. This decrease was due almost entirely to a falling off in the spirits trade.

19. The value of the imports from the three principal countries of origin was as follows :—

	£
United States of America	748,000
Great Britain	507,000
Canada	173,000

20. The values of the principal classes of articles imported during 1924 were as follows :—

	£
Spirits	624,000
Wines	29,000
Cordials and liqueurs	6,000
Malt	33,000
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	22,000
Foodstuffs	308,000

21. The values of the principal articles of local produce were as follows :—

	£
Pineapples, preserved	3,702
Tomatoes, raw	37,381
Salt	492
Sisal hemp... ..	37,861
Timber	36,215
Shells	268
Sponge	131,618

The total export of local produce was valued at £274,327 against £352,024 of re-exports, principally spirits. The value of spirits re-exported was less by £1,200,000 than during 1923.

22. *Agriculture*.—The principal agricultural products of the Bahamas are tomatoes, pineapples and sisal hemp. The first is a comparatively new industry, but is making considerable progress, and employs a large amount of labour. Pineapples are not doing so well. The price of sisal has been fairly satisfactory and a fair amount was exported during the year. Experiments are now being made with a small portable machine for cleaning the sisal and it is possible, if the machine is a success, that the agricultural problems of the out islands will, to a certain degree, be solved. The citrus trees which were destroyed by fly some years ago have not yet been replaced.

23. *Land*.—The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 587 square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp, rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

24. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1924, seventy-four Crown Land Grants were issued varying in size from small lots of less than one acre in settlements, to a tract of 1,800 acres for agricultural purposes, the total area granted in 1924 being 2,710 acres.

25. The island of New Providence, on which Nassau, the capital of the Colony, is situated, has developed as a tourist resort, in consequence of which the value of land has greatly increased. Here the Crown owns only some barren land on which pine trees grow, with a few very limited areas fit for cultivation. On the outer islands of the group where vacant Crown land still exists, the rental charged for agricultural lands is at the rate of 1s. 6d. per acre. Similar land when improved by the tenant would be sold for 25s. an acre.

V.—INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

26. *Forestry*.—This Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing almost side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of "pine barren." The pine trees are suitable

for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

27. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in *lignumvitæ* and logwood. *Sabicu*, locally known as "horseflesh" is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madeira and Cedar. *Cascarilla* bark of an excellent quality grows wild and is exported when the market price is favourable.

28. *Salt*.—A small supply of salt is won from the ponds in some of the out islands.

29. *Fisheries*.—There are quantities of excellent fish in the waters of the Colony, but there is no fishing except for local consumption. There was formerly some trade in *bêche-de-mer*, which was exported to China, but this trade has practically disappeared. Turtle shell is exported, and there is a fairly large trade in conch shells; the *cameo of commerce* is manufactured from the lip of this shell.

30. Perhaps the principal industry of the Colony is sponging. Sponges are found in great quantities in all shallow waters of the Bahamas, especially around the islands of Andros, Abaco, Exuma, Acklins, and Eleuthera. A large number of small vessels is employed on this work, the sponges being hooked up from the bottom by the crews of these vessels. Sponges are being planted in several localities, and extensive experiments are being carried out by an expert sent out by the Imperial Government.

VI.—BANKS.

31. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch at Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office department.

VII.—LEGISLATION.

32. The Hotel Loan Act, 1924, and the Hotel Act, 1924, authorise the Government to raise a sum of £150,000 by debentures bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and to lend the money so raised at 3 per cent. interest to a locally-formed Company for the erection of a new hotel.

33. The Penal Code, 1924, and the Criminal Procedure Act, 1924 (which have not yet been brought into force) consolidate and amend the statute law of the Colony dealing with criminal offences and procedure.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

34. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided by Government. Secondary education is provided in schools under the control of various religious bodies.

35. In 1923–24 the sum of £20,000 was expended from public funds on education, under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

36. In New Providence, the education to be obtained in the schools is fairly satisfactory, but in the out islands, owing to the difficulty of providing a school for each of the scattered communities, and the limited number of efficient teachers, the education available leaves a great deal to be desired.

IX.—CLIMATE.

37. The climate of the Bahamas, especially in the winter months, is one of the finest in the world, and is, probably, the Colony's greatest asset. From November to May the temperature averages 70° Fahrenheit, there is little rain, and cool breezes prevail. The lowest recorded temperature (in January, 1905) is 51·5°.

38. The rainy months are May, June, September and October, and it is during these months that the greatest heat is experienced, the temperature ranging from 80° to 90°. The average annual rainfall for the last nineteen years was forty-six inches.

39. The islands lie within the hurricane belt, but serious hurricanes are of rare occurrence, only four having occurred in the last sixty years.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

40. *Harbours.*—With the view of converting Nassau Harbour into a deep water port an order was placed in January, 1923, with Messrs. Lobnitz, of Renfrew, for the construction of a dipper dredger, and a contract was given to an American dredging company for the removal of all sand in the main channel and mooring basin, so that, on arrival, the Government dredger could commence work on the remaining rock. Dredging was begun by the company in April and finished in August, 1923, 800,000 cubic yards of sand being removed. Two cross channels were cut leading from the main channel into the northern portion of the harbour, where a deeper area existed which had hitherto been difficult of access. Work was then begun by the Government dredger, and during the year a total quantity of 273,362 cubic yards of rock has been removed, leaving only 176,738 cubic yards to complete the channel. Almost the whole of this lies on the bar which has been cut down to a depth of twenty-seven feet. The widening out of this cut to upwards of four hundred feet will probably be finished during 1925, and the channel will then be ready for use. The question of the construction of a wharf is at present under consideration.

41. *Shipping.*—In 1924, 1,054 steamers and 111 sailing vessels, of a total of 612,000 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England, via Bermuda, by the steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and a fortnightly service during the summer, from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line, which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica, and British Honduras; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail and the Ward Lines also call at Nassau.

42. Communication with the out islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats, but owing to the class of boat employed the voyages are uncomfortable and unreliable.

43. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade, and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks, and navigation is difficult.

44. *Roads.*—In the out islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are little more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there is a considerable number of motors and carriages, and there are roads running around and across the island. Owing to the heavy traffic the roads are not in very good condition, but steps are now being taken to improve them.

45. *Post Office, Telephones, and Telegraphs.*—The various post office services have been well maintained, and the telephone system has been extended.

46. The telegraph cable service to Florida was abandoned some years ago, owing to the difficulty of keeping the cable in repair, and the wireless service then instituted has proved a complete success. The service now comprises a central station of five kilowatts power at Nassau, and seven stations of one-half or one kilowatt power at various out islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without a single interruption, and has handled a considerable amount of traffic, as many as 200 messages being exchanged in one day with a station in Florida.

A. C. BURNS,
Colonial Secretary.

Nassau,
8th January, 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1215	British Honduras	1923
1216	New Hebrides	"
1217	Gibraltar	"
1218	Jamaica	"
1219	Sierra Leone	"
1220	Uganda	"
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands.. .. .	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute.. .. .	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent.. .. .	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1242.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1187.)



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1923.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION.

Geographical.

The Falkland Islands comprise a group of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, lying some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan. The geographical position is between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude. There are two main islands, known as the East and West Falkland, which are divided by a sound running approximately north-east. There are numerous smaller islands clustered round each of these. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty Chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>			
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
Total area of Group	4,618

Descriptive.

The Falkland Islands are in general appearance treeless, bleak and inhospitable. The scenery generally is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands, where somewhat similar climatic conditions prevail. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast, but there are numerous excellent harbours. There are no high mountains, the highest point in the group being Mount Adam, 2,315 ft., in the West Falkland. The country may best be described as in the narrative of the "Challenger" Expedition as a "treeless expanse of moorland and bog and bare and barren rock."

The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on an excellent natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. There are some 890 residents only. Beyond the limits of the town there are no roads, and all inland travel is done on horseback, with pack horses for transport. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which the country is divided.

Historical.

A group of six or seven islands situated to the east of the Patagonian coast appears in maps of South America from 1507 onwards. No written record remains of their discovery, but it is probable that they may have been what are now known as the Jason Islands, lying to the extreme north-west of the Falklands. They were subsequently seen on the 24th of January, 1600, by the Dutch navigator, Sebald de Weert, and were named after him. Meanwhile, part of the Falkland Islands group was sighted by John Davis, master of the "Desire," on the 14th August, 1592, and his is the first known written mention of them. From his discovery they were called Davis' Southern Islands. In February, 1594, the first inspection of the Falklands was made by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty," a vessel of 400 tons. He coasted round a considerable part of the group and described the country at length. He made some inaccurate deductions from what he saw and in the narrative of his voyage he gives the latitude, by manifest error, possibly in transcription, three degrees out, but there can be no reasonable doubt that he actually surveyed the Falkland Islands and was the first to describe them. It was not until 1690 that any landing was made. On the 27th of January (Old Style) in that year, Captain Strong visited the islands, in a vessel called the "Welfare," sailing up the sound between the East and West Falkland and naming it "Fawkland Sound." He landed at several points, obtaining geese, ducks and fresh water. The naming of the group as the Falkland Islands derives its origin from Captain Strong's visit.

During the first half of the 18th century adventurers, in vessels fitted out at St. Malo, visited the islands which then obtained the name from the French of *Iles Malouines*, transformed later by the Spaniards to *Islas Malvinas*. In 1764 a French settlement was planted by de Bougainville at a spot named Port Louis in Berkeley Sound, a few miles north of Port William. A British garrison was posted at an island in the West Falkland in 1766, England reasserting her claim to the sovereignty of the group, which had been formally proclaimed in the previous year at the same place, on the ground of priority of discovery. In 1767 France ceded her rights in the country to Spain for the sum of £25,000. Three years later a squadron of five frigates drove out the British garrison, but the action was disowned by the Spanish Government, and the garrison was restored by Spain in 1770. In 1774 the post was temporarily abandoned. It is believed that the Spanish garrison was withdrawn in 1800. According to Admiral Fitzroy "From 1810 to 1820 there was no person upon these islands who claimed even a shadow of authority over them." In November of the latter year the flag of "The United Provinces of South America" was hoisted with a claim to sovereignty. There does

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not appear to have been any occupation until 1823, when one Louis Vernet, a German, obtained a concession from the Buenos Aires Government for the use of the fishery, cattle and tracts of land in the East Falkland. The action of this Government was scarcely known in Europe until 1829, when a formal protest was made by Great Britain. In the same year Vernet was appointed Governor of the islands by the Government of the United Provinces of South America. In 1831 his settlement was, however, broken up by a United States corvette, and many persons, including his agent, were deported in retaliation for an exercise by him of his fishery rights against American sealers. Some years later, and after further British occupation, Vernet accepted compensation in full for all his property left in the islands. In January, 1833, Great Britain, following up the warnings given four years previously, reassumed occupation, and settled and developed the islands. The settlement was in charge of naval officers down to 1842, when Richard Clement Moody, a subaltern in the Royal Engineers, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor. He was raised to the rank of Governor shortly afterwards.

The Colony received grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government down to 1880, since which time it has been self-supporting.

Constitution.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official members, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are appointed by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British origin. The descendants of the early pioneers now own the greater part of the land.

The Colony is entirely divided into sheep farms. Nearly one-third of the total area is owned by the Falkland Islands Company, who own more than one-third of the sheep. The balance of the land is shared between nineteen farms running over 10,000 sheep, and nine with less than that number. Of the larger farms there are only ten managed by resident owners or members of their families.

From the time of the foundation of the Colony to the present date there has been a succession of Governors who have endeavoured to develop her resources in every direction in which their inclination led them or the funds at their disposal allowed.

Fisheries, shipwrighting, peat, coal, oil, guano and gold have all had their turn, whether through private or public effort, but the conclusion has been forced on the present Administration, at least, that the first and most urgent demand on the resources available for development purposes is that they should be devoted to the sheep industry. It is realized that the whole wealth of the Colony is derived from the wool produced, and has been mainly so derived since the country became self-supporting.

On the whole, 1923 was a prosperous year for the Colony. The wool market was firm; there was, with insignificant exception, no crime and the health of the people was good.

II.—FINANCIAL.

(a) *Revenue.*

The revenue for the year 1923 was £47,795, as compared with £44,743 in the previous year and an average of £42,672 for the last three years.

There are no import Customs duties except on spirits, wine and tobacco, which yielded a revenue of £4,319. Deducting the amount derived from the sale of land, the interest on investments and a contribution of £5,000 paid by the Dependencies of the Colony towards the cost of the central administration, there remains the sum of £16,658 only paid out by the Colonists in taxation. This is less than 10 per cent. of the value of the total exports of articles of domestic produce.

(b) *Expenditure.*

The expenditure during the year of record amounted to £42,868. The following is a comparative statement of the total ordinary and extraordinary expenditure in the years 1921, 1922 and 1923 :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Ordinary Expenditure ...	32,286	37,160	32,554
Public Works Extraordinary	2,868	1,292	8,514
Miscellaneous Extraordinary	4,552	—	1,800
	<hr/> £39,706	<hr/> £38,452	<hr/> £42,868

Apart from the cost of the maintenance of a patrol boat for seal fishery protection, the heaviest expenditure was involved by the upkeep of the Medical Department at £3,558, followed by Public Works Recurrent, £3,092, and the Post Office, which includes a wireless station and is revenue-producing, £2,492.

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.*

The balance of assets over liabilities at the end of 1923 amounted to £220,435. This includes a land sales fund of the value of £182,453, and £37,770 on general account.

(d) *Currency and Banking.*

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th March, 1899. The total face value of the notes in circulation was, during the year, reduced from £20,000 to £18,000.

There are no banking facilities in the Colony with the exception of those offered by the Government Savings Bank, which performs only the functions of a Post Office Savings Bank in the United Kingdom. Persons remitting money to the Colony should, therefore, avoid sending cheques which cannot be cleared or discounted locally. Remittances can be sent through the Crown Agents for the Colonies for the credit of any person in the Colony.

There were, on the 30th of September, 1923, 821 deposit accounts in the Savings Bank, with an aggregate sum of £120,965 to their credit. This represents the average of £148 in each account, or £56 per head of the population. £19,612 was withdrawn and £25,434 deposited during the year. Interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is paid on deposits for 12 months.

(e) *General.*

There is no public debt and no large sums have hitherto been spent on the development of the resources of the Colony or the improvement of conditions. During the year consideration was given to the schemes for progress initiated in 1922. The isolation of this small Colony, the great expense ordinarily attendant on procuring expert professional advice, the lack of funds and the absence of means of attraction for outside capital have in former years proved a serious, if not an insuperable stumbling block, in the way of development.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

Trade.

				1921.	1922.	1923.
				£	£	£
Imports	...	...	...	137,929	112,298	141,080
Exports	...	...	...	130,006	103,622	167,440
Total Trade	...	...	...	£267,935	£215,920	£308,520

Imports.

There are no import customs duties except on spirits 15s. per gallon, wine 2s., and beer 6d. a gallon, in bulk, tobacco 3s. a lb., and cigars 5s. a lb.

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1922 and 1923 were as follows :—

	1922.	1923.
	£	£
Groceries	22,534	25,110
Coal and Coke	7,355	4,715
Live Stock	7,824	7,435
Hardware and Machinery	9,035	37,085
Furniture	6,298	8,011
Drapery	13,011	10,621

The country of origin of the imports is shown below—

	Value.	Percentage of Total Imports.
	£	%
United Kingdom	117,749	83·47
Chile	15,779	11·18
Uruguay	4,673	3·31
Argentine	1,737	1·23
Others	1,142	·81

The quantity of spirits and malt liquor imported into the Colony during each of the past four years has been as shown below :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Spirits	3,227	3,993	2,594	3,729
Malt liquors	14,713	16,072	9,300	5,273
Wines	1,530	1,888	929	1,161

It may be deduced from the above figures and from the vital statistics of the Colony that the average annual consumption per head of the adult male population is four gallons of spirits, fifteen of beer, and one of wine.

Exports.

The value taken for the exports is that at the port of shipment. The exports of domestic produce other than wool, valued at £142,755, live sheep £9,675, and sheepskins £7,431, were negligible; 127 fur sealskins of a nominal value of £500 were sent to the United Kingdom, as against 96 skins in 1922.

An Ordinance was passed at the end of 1923 imposing an export tax of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported. It was anticipated that a revenue of approximately £9,000 per annum would be derived from this source. Ordinance No. 5 of 1918, imposing a tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1d. on land, according to area, was at the same time repealed. It is noteworthy that the new export tax was imposed at the request of the wool growers, who considered this a more equitable form of taxation than any other measure designed to produce the same revenue.

Industries.

As has been indicated in the earlier part of this report, the sole industry in the Colony is sheep-farming.

During the year 1923, 7,661 bales, approximately 4,596,600 lb. of wool, were exported to the United Kingdom. The value given for Customs purposes was £142,755. The average of the exports for the previous four years was 7,641 bales, valued at £192,884.

36,136 live sheep were exported to the Argentine, the sale price averaging 5s. 4d. a head. It has been reported that 10,000 were eventually disposed of to a freezing concern, the remainder being fattened for consumption in the country.

The winter was exceptionally severe and the losses among live stock of all kinds heavy. It is not surprising therefore that the lambing was bad, but as poor lambings have been a feature of recent years it is probable that the condition of the pasture and of the flocks is more to blame than the climate. The weather was, on the whole, dry when the ewes lambed and the feed after a late winter was notably abundant.

The following is a comparative table of the numbers of sheep in 1922 and 1923 :—

	1922.	1923.
Sheep	666,175	637,210
Wethers	189,686	195,395
Breeding Ewes	250,529	257,867
Hoggets	134,324	117,693
Percentage of Hoggets to Breeding Ewes of previous year	59.67%	46.1%

As no lambs are killed or sold the numbers of hoggets represent the survivals from the previous year's lambing. The record is far from encouraging. The leading wool growers are, however, working in co-operation with the Government with a view to solving the all important problems connected with the decline in the prosperity of the industry.

The serious effects of the decline have not yet been appreciably felt financially owing to the steady rise in the price of wool, but the farmers, more particularly in the West Falklands, where the flocks are decreasing more rapidly than in the East, have every ground for anxiety.

Shipping.

The nationality, number and tonnage of vessels which entered the Colony during 1923 are shown in the following table:—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Steam-ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Sailing ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	13	57,054	1	25
Chilean	—	—	3	208
Norwegian	35	24,436	—	—
Spanish	4	10,128	—	—
Total	52	91,618	4	233

IV.—EDUCATION.

The following statement shows the number of children taught during the year:—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Government School	91	60	151
Roman Catholic School	26	57	83
Government Travelling Teachers	29	24	53
Falkland Islands Company's Teachers	30	25	55
Totals	176	166	342

Frequent mention has been made in former years of the difficulties attendant on the provision of educational facilities for children in the outlying settlements and the homes of the shepherds. The system of sending uncertificated and untrained travelling teachers round the country to spend from two to six weeks during the year at each place could only be regarded as an inadequate makeshift, but it has served its turn well. Parents of young children in the camp have always been very reluctant to send their children to Stanley, even where they could afford the cost. During 1923 the Secretary of State approved a scheme prepared by Mr. Hoare, Government Schoolmaster, whereby the Government undertook to board, lodge and educate children from the country districts at a cost to the parents of £1 a month only. A subsidy of £2 a month for each child was also offered to be paid to friends or relations of the parents who preferred that their children should live with them rather than at the Government Hostel.

V.—CLIMATE.

The climate of the Falklands, though trying on account of the continuous high winds in the summer months, is very healthy. It is generally described as rigorous, but this is misleading. There are seldom heavy frosts, and snow, which never lies long, is rarely more than ankle deep. Severe storms are

of less frequent occurrence and intensity than in the United Kingdom. Rainfall is well distributed over the year. The average fall is 26·43 inches per annum, or slightly more than at Kew. Although the temperature seldom rises above 63 degrees, it falls below freezing point on about 50 days only throughout the year.

The mean daily maximum temperature is 55 degrees in January and 40 in July, while the mean minimum is 45 in January and 33 in midwinter. Fogs and mists inland are very uncommon.

The average daily bright sunshine is over six hours in January and three hours forty-eight minutes over the whole year.

The winter of 1923 was exceptionally severe and was prolonged into November. The effect on the mortality of the sheep was serious. As, however, commonly happens with a late winter, the pasturage benefited appreciably.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

A fairly regular mail service with the United Kingdom was maintained in 1923 by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Eight mails were received, the time occupied in transit being four weeks. Homeward bound mails, via Panama, take up to seven weeks to reach England, but there are opportunities in the autumn for direct communication for passengers and mails. The ordinary postal rate is 1*d.* per ounce within the British Empire, and 3*d.* per ounce to foreign countries.

The Colonial Government maintains two wireless stations. The normal range of the larger station at Stanley is 750 miles. A smaller station for inter-insular traffic has a range of 100 miles. The normal wave length is 600 metres. The bulk of the traffic goes to Monte Video, from whence the messages are cabled to Europe. The Chilean station at Punta Arenas in Patagonia also receives wireless messages and transmits them by the All-America route. The cost of cabling is 4*s.* 2*d.* a word to the United Kingdom and 1*s.* 2*d.* to Monte Video and Punta Arenas. The deferred rate is 2*s.* 6½*d.* a word to the United Kingdom.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1923, was 2,173, composed of 1,206 males and 967 females. The birth-rate was 16·3 per 1,000 and the death-rate 8 per 1,000.

VIII.—SOCIAL.

The cost of living is low in the country districts as in any similar pastoral community, but heavy freight rates make imported provisions costly.

The following prices give some indication of the cost of living :—Mutton 3*d.* a lb., beef 4½*d.* a lb., butter 2*s.* 8*d.* a lb., milk 1*s.* a quart, sugar 6*d.* a lb., bread 1*s.* 2*d.* a quartern loaf, tea 3*s.* a lb. Horses cost about £16, cows £4, sheep 12*s.* 6*d.* Board and lodging in Stanley cost from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* a day.

Wages are from 1*s.* an hour for unskilled labour to 1*s.* 4½*d.* for tradesmen. Shepherds and farm hands receive £7 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat and milk found. It costs farm labourers from 8*d.* to 1*s.* a day for all food.

There were no labour troubles in 1923.

DEPENDENCIES.

INTRODUCTION.

Geographical.

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands : South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, and the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

Descriptive.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains covered with snow where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster, at Deception Island, in the South Shetlands. These dependencies are, however, ice free for some four or five months in the year only.

Captain Cook described these regions as "a country doomed by nature never once to feel the warmth of the sun's rays, but to lie buried in everlasting snow and ice . . . a coast which, when discovered and explored, would have answered no end whatever, or have been of the least value, either to navigation or to geography or, indeed, to any other science." It is from this region that merchandise, valued at over two million pounds sterling, is derived each year and on which so much scientific interest has of late been centred.

Historical.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the sixteenth, seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith, in the snow "Williams" of Blyth, took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-20, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793, and British Whalers were met there in 1819. The fur-seal industry achieved such large proportions that no less than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur-seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilized mainly by foreigners. The Norwegians were first in the field and credit must be given to them for their initiative and energy.

The Dependencies are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony are, however, only in force in the Dependencies if specifically applied. A permanent official staff of two Magistrates, two Customs Officers and one Police Constable is maintained at South Georgia, while such control as is possible of the South Shetlands whaling fleet is carried out by a Magistrate and a whaling officer who accompany the fleet south in November and return with it in April.

South Georgia is the only part of the Dependencies which is permanently habitable. Five land stations have been established there by whaling companies, sites of the usual extent of 500 acres being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. The leases include the right to use two whale catchers without the payment of additional licence fees. The harbours in the other Dependencies are ice bound for about seven months in the year, and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories. There are also land stations at Deception Island and at the South Orkneys, the personnel of which arrive and return with the whaling fleets.

Low prices were realized for the oil produced during the 1922-23 season and it was found necessary to relieve the industry by refunding a proportion of the customs duties paid on the oil exported.

It has been the policy of the Colonial Office that the revenue derived from the Dependencies should, as far as possible, be devoted to the development of their resources.

An Executive Committee was appointed in London during the course of 1923 to control the proposed investigations recommended by the Inter-Departmental Committee in 1919. The Committee, upon which the Admiralty, the British Museum, the Ministry of Fisheries and the Royal Geographical Society are represented, carries out its duties subject to the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

II.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue derived from the Dependencies in 1923 was £160,221. The local expenditure was £7,436.

Under instruction from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the surplus of Dependencies' revenue, after providing for local services and paying for the cost of central administration in the Falklands, is earmarked for research and development purposes. The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1923, was £315,795, of which £300,302 stood to the credit of the Research Fund.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

There are no banking facilities. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is paid by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

Trade.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1923 was £3,203,011, of which £2,918,198 represents exports of whale products.

Industries.

The development of the Dependencies has been rapid, and it is not yet proved that whaling in these waters will, as has happened elsewhere in the world, exhaust the supply. Fortunately, the industry has been controlled by the Falkland Islands Government from its commencement; the keen interest taken in it by the Imperial Government and the British Museum has been of great value.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the sole industry. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season to the period from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

The progress of the whaling industry in the Dependencies since its inception on an extensive scale in 1909 is shown in the following Table :—

Year	Whale Catchers.	Whales Captured.	Barrels of Oil.	Average of Barrels per Whale.	Value. £
1909-1914 (average) ...	42	8,314	304,002	36·57	822,451
1915-20 (average) ...	48	6,533	333,398	51·03	1,906,244
1920-21	48	8,520	383,816	45·05	1,559,467
1921-22	50	6,955	448,885	64·54	2,244,390
1922-23	55	9,915	611,372	61·66	3,056,860

The increased value of the catches, as reflected in the increase in the average number of barrels of oil produced from each whale, may be largely attributed to the effect of stringent regulations made in 1921 which compel the economical utilization of the carcasses and restrict the waste which formerly prevailed. Improved methods of dealing with the material have also had much to do with the better results now obtained.

The whaling industry is subject to special taxation in the form of an export duty on oil and guano. The masters of vessels exporting these products are required to declare the quantities carried and to pay duty before their vessels can be cleared. Certificates showing the quantities landed must be obtained from the senior Officer of Customs at the port or ports of discharge. The amount of duty paid is subsequently adjusted on the evidence of the certificates.

The rate of duty on whale and seal oil was originally fixed at 3½d. a barrel. This was raised to 1s. 6d. in 1919 on the understanding that the yield in excess of 3½d. a barrel should be carried to a separate fund for the benefit of the Dependencies and principally to defray the cost of the researches recommended in a report* made in 1919 by an Inter-Departmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies. In 1920 the duty was raised to 5s. a barrel. This rate has, however, never been actually effective; since, owing to the collapse of the market for oil, half the duties paid in 1920-21 were refunded, and in subsequent years a system of refunds on a sliding scale has brought the net duties to 3s. 6d. a barrel. The value of the oil in the European market was fairly steady between 1921 and 1923 at £30 a ton. The export duty on guano is 1½d. per 100 lb., or part thereof. The gross export duty received in 1923 from the Dependencies was £149,517, of which £105,840 was retained. Credit to the research fund brought the total to £300,302 by the end of the year. £16,000 was expended during the course of 1923 on the purchase and part reconditioning of the "Discovery," the vessel used by Captain Scott in his antarctic explorations of 1901-04.

The cost of a licence for whale fishing is £100 a year. The payment of a further £100 allows the licensee to use two whale-catchers. £100 is charged for any additional catcher. It is worthy of mention that a single large whale may produce oil to the value of over £1,000. In view of the restrictions necessary on the fishing industry no new licences are now issued. Twelve Norwegian and two British companies hold the field.

Whaling was resumed in the South Orkneys in 1922-23 by the one company which is licensed to fish there. The catch was 325 whales, which yielded 13,629 barrels of oil, or the low average of 42·19 barrels per whale.

Shipping.

The following table shows the number of steamships which entered at South Georgia during 1923 :—

<i>British.</i>		<i>Foreign.</i>	
<i>Number of</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Number of</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
<i>Steamships.</i>		<i>Steamships.</i>	
13	22,722	20	28,456

Grytviken, in South Georgia, and Port Foster, in South Shetland Islands, are the only ports of entry in the Dependency.

* Vol. 657 of 1920

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CEYLON.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1172.)



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CEYLON.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

FOR

1923.

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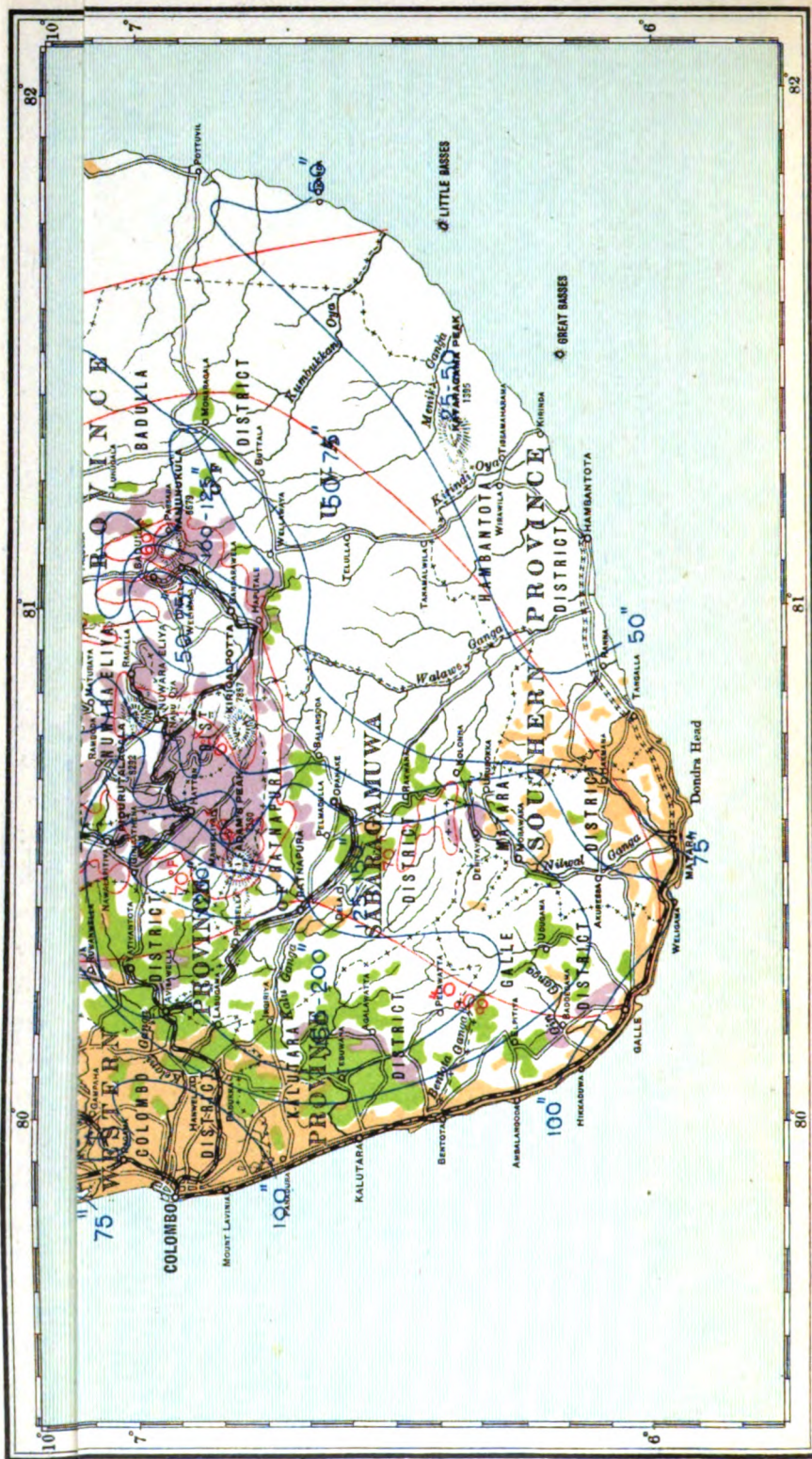
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Annual General Report for 1923.

I.—General Summary.

IN spite of the general trade depression in Europe and the somewhat eccentric behaviour of the monsoons, 1923 was in most respects a decidedly prosperous year for Ceylon. Both Import and Export trade achieved record figures, and by the end of the financial year 1922-23 revenue showed a surplus of Rs. 5,000,000 over estimated expenditure. This pleasing result was due in the main to the satisfactory condition of the tea industry, on which the Colony so largely (perhaps too largely) depends. It would nevertheless be a mistake to suppose that prosperity was confined to those directly interested in tea. On the contrary the Customs Import returns indicate a wide diffusion of wealth. All classes were spending money freely on imported goods and on luxuries as well as necessities of life.

Rubber, though by no means restored to the position it held in 1918, made an encouraging recovery as the result of restriction ; most companies were able to pay moderate dividends on the year's working. The coconut industry was less fortunate ; it suffered from the unusually dry weather which occurred towards the end of 1922. Yet the value of coconut products exported was very nearly up to the average for the last five years. Plumibago showed no recovery from the depression which overtook the trade in 1917, nor have the Ceylon merchants yet succeeded in regaining the ground lost in consequence of the revised American tariff and competition from Madagascar.

Weather conditions, while contributing to a record yield of tea, were, on the whole, unfavourable to other crops. Both monsoons brought an unusually heavy rainfall, yet in the "dry zone" (shielded from the south-west) there was a long drought from February to October. Paddy crops suffered alike from this and from the rains, failing completely in certain areas, as, for instance, in the Eravur Koralai of the Eastern Province, where a plague of caterpillars engendered by the drought, demolished what was left by the floods. In this case it was necessary to afford relief by a Government grant and through the local Co-operative Credit Societies. Drought also affected both paddy and chena crops in the North-Central Province and the Mullaittivu District of the Northern Province.

To the weather may be ascribed, in a great part, the very high rate of sickness which prevailed during the year. Particularly severe outbreaks of malaria and dysentery occurred in various parts of the Island, and there was much infant mortality. The heaviest incidence of malaria was in the North-Central Province, where there was an actual decrease of population in most of the villages. Intensive campaigns against this pernicious disease, the greatest curse of Ceylon as of other tropical countries, were carried out within the towns of Trincomalee and Anuradhapura and at Talaimannar. Active propaganda was organized in the villages, and particularly among school children. Unfortunately the villager is, as a general rule, only interested in the disease when he is actually suffering from it himself; yet it is obviously upon his intelligent co-operation that the success of the efforts put forward by Government must ultimately depend.

There is good reason to expect that the opening up of the Eastern Province and Tamankaduwa by the Batticaloa and Trincomalee Railways will have a salutary effect on malaria in those districts, and it is possible that the same result may be achieved by reclamation of land in the dry zone for new staple crops.

Marked success has attended the treatment of "parangi" ("Framboesia" or "Yaws") by salvarsan injections. The treatment is given without charge by itinerating officers of the Medical Department.

As for the social and moral condition of the people, it is impossible to speak in any but the most general terms. There is a strong tendency among the more wealthy classes to adopt Western customs and costumes, and, on the whole, it may be said that people are becoming more sophisticated.

In the more developed Provinces a new and important factor has appeared which is having a marked effect in this direction. Hundreds of motor buses are now plying for hire wherever they can find roads to carry them and passengers to be carried. Urban influences are thus being rapidly extended to villages which two years ago were remote from the outer world.

Education is undoubtedly gaining ground. In 1923 there was the usual increase in the number of schools and in the number of scholars attending them. The demand for "English" education was very pronounced. Unfortunately the practical results of this eagerly acquired knowledge are apt to be disappointing. The Inspector-General of Police reports that the professional burglar is learning to appreciate the advantages which a liberal education can afford him in the finer branches of his

art. Moreover, the only serious unemployment in the Island is to be found among the educated and semi-educated classes from which clerks are drawn.

Probably these somewhat disquieting symptoms are inevitable at the stage which has been reached by education in Ceylon and in countries similarly situated; they should probably be regarded as in the nature of "growing pains" destined to become less obtrusive in the course of time. Or it may be that future developments will be along the lines lately indicated by the establishment of technical schools, where instruction is given in handicrafts, agriculture, and various trades.

Crime, on the whole, appears to be decreasing, thanks to an efficient police force, yet the Ceylon figures would still be regarded with alarm in most European countries.

The temperance movement is making considerable headway. It is strongly supported by Ceylonese social reformers and politicians as well as by English and American missionaries. As to its general merits opinions are naturally divided. It is clear that it has as yet brought about no marked decrease in crime, but the temperance workers may fairly claim that this is because no restriction has yet been placed on foreign liquor shops (except in the Jaffna District). Elsewhere gin has largely taken the place of native spirits.

In some districts arrack taverns have entirely disappeared owing to the combined action of the Excise Committees and "local option" polls, and in others "off sales" have been prohibited.

A good idea of the progress made in provincial administration was provided by the "Festival" held during July at Gampaha in the Western Province. The programme embraced such varied subjects as town sanitation, physical training, paddy cultivation, and bee-keeping. Demonstrations were given of those and numerous other arts. Gampaha itself is one of the "model" towns designed by Sir John Fraser (for many years Government Agent of the Western Province). These towns are laid out on a plan which makes ample allowance for future development; they have broad streets lit by electric light, spacious markets, schools, and public parks. Electric light has been installed in five towns in the Western Province, and the plant has been designed to fit in with the Government Hydro-electric Scheme when that is completed.

The general prosperity of the Island was reflected in the demand for Crown land, which was manifested in almost every district, not only in the tea-growing area, but also, for instance,

in the Southern Province (for planting citronella) and in the Matale District (for tobacco cultivation). In the Eastern Province the land already allotted for paddy cultivation was found to be sufficient for legitimate demands, and the policy of Government was mainly directed towards consolidating the areas already under development. A new system of land tenure designed to protect the small holder was proposed and is under consideration.

The experimental plantation of cotton in the Hambantota District has given very encouraging results, and may in time lead to the establishment of an important industry. There are large tracts in the "dry zone" which would appear to be suitable for cotton growing, notably along the Batticaloa Railway in the Eastern Province and in the Kolonna korale of Sabaragamuwa.

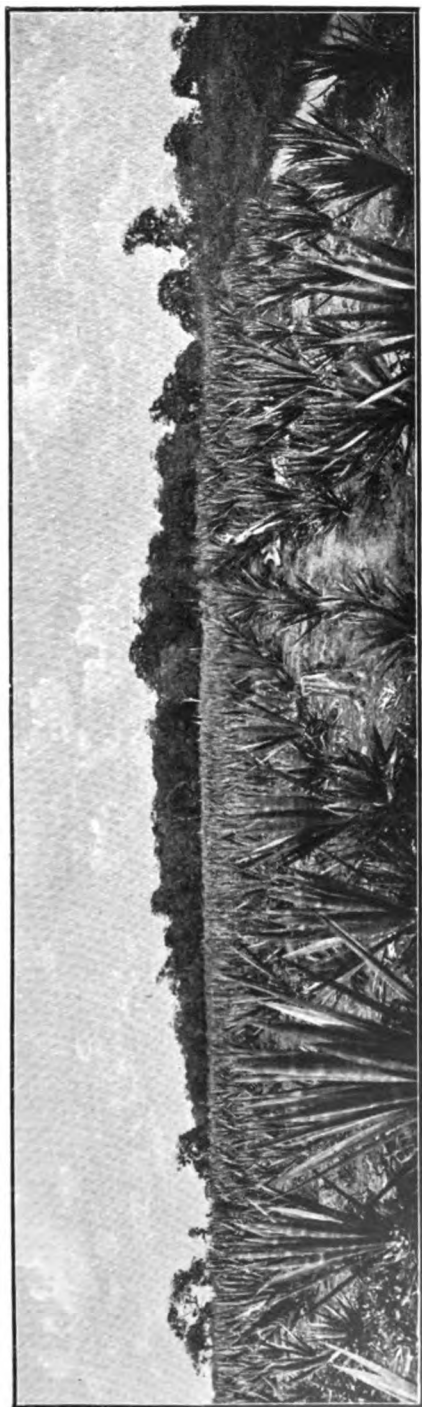
The plantation of Sisal hemp near Anuradhapura is said to be flourishing. The first harvest is expected in 1924.

A remarkable discovery of sapphires was reported from Pelmadulla in the Ratnapura District. Of the many stones found, the largest weighed over 1,000 carats and was sold in the rough for Rs. 50,000. It is said that dealers have paid about Rs. 500,000 in all for stones found in one paddy field.

Two interesting schemes prepared by the Irrigation Department were under the consideration of Government at the end of the year, and will probably be carried through. These are designed to protect certain low-lying areas in and around Colombo from floods brought down by the Kelani river. It is expected that a large extent of land now either permanently water-logged or subject to inundation can be made available for building sites, thus relieving the congestion which is at present a serious impediment to the health of the city.

A rather serious strike among daily paid labourers occurred in Colombo early in the year. The movement began in the Railway workshops and spread to other Government Departments. The labour force employed by certain private firms was also affected. The men who came out made no attempt at a formal statement of grievances, nor did they ask for redress on any particular point. During the period of the strike the workmen gave very little trouble and behaved well. There were very few cases of assault or disorder in the streets.

Apart from these incidents the political situation throughout the year was tranquil.



SISAL HEMP : ANURADHAPURA.

II.—Finance.

REVENUE.

THE revenue collected during the financial year ended September 30, 1923, amounted to Rs. 93,720,169·33, which was Rs. 5,094,869·33 more than the estimate and Rs. 14,450,052·61 more than the amount collected in the previous financial year. Customs, harbour dues, revenues of oil installations, arrack, estate duties, commission on money orders, Railway receipts, interest on public funds invested, abatements under Ordinance No. 13 of 1906 (pensions to widows and orphans), and profit on new coins were mainly responsible for the increase over the previous financial year. The increase under Customs receipts was Rs. 5,925,519, under port and harbour Rs. 1,193,558, under arrack Rs. 1,574,362, under estate duties Rs. 452,362, under commission on money orders Rs. 234,734, under Railway receipts Rs. 2,562,391, under interest Rs. 164,848, under abatements (Ordinance No. 13 of 1906) Rs. 240,348, and under profit on new coins Rs. 741,892. The increases under Customs and Railway receipts and port and harbour dues are an indication of improved trade conditions.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the financial year ended September 30, 1923, which was estimated at Rs. 91,141,611, amounted to Rs. 85,583,909·72, the saving on the estimate being Rs. 5,557,701·28. This expenditure exceeded that of the previous financial year by Rs. 8,224,841·24. The increase, as compared with the previous year, is due mainly to the increased salaries to Government officers, more liberal provision for expenditure under the following heads: Excise, Post Office, Education, Railway Department, Railway Extraordinary Works, Public Works Annually Recurrent, Public Works Extraordinary (Flood Damages), and Military Expenditure. The latter head included expenditure on the provision of accommodation for a pack battery of artillery and the payment of a sum of £14,803 underpaid as military contribution for 1920–21.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Colony on September 30, 1923, were Rs. 62,255,044, and the liabilities Rs. 40,691,385, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 21,563,659. The assets consisted of cash in fixed deposits and current accounts in the local and Indian banks and with the Crown Agents in London, unissued stores, investments in rupee and sterling gilt

edged securities, and sundry recoverable advances. The main liabilities represent amounts due to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, to the loan account, and to suitors and other depositors in the Treasury and local Kachcheries. The cash balances available amounted to Rs. 45,922,472. The accumulated surplus on September 30, 1923, was in excess of that on September 30, 1922, by a sum of Rs. 8,136,260.

CURRENCY.

On September 30, 1923, the value of currency notes in circulation amounted to Rs. 39,704,944. The Currency Commissioners on the same date held silver rupees to the extent of Rs. 15,272,715, and Rs. 28,560,352 (market value) or Rs. 26,238,318 (purchase price) in British, Indian, and Colonial securities. The value of the reserve on September 30, 1923, was thus in excess of the value of notes in circulation by Rs. 4,128,123.

During the year silver rupees to the extent of Rs. 409,134 were received from the banks in Colombo for exchange of currency notes.

The following denominations of subsidiary coins were in circulation in the Colony on September 30, 1923 :—

			Rs.
50 cents (silver)	..	..	3,755,000
25 cents (silver)	..	..	2,790,750
10 cents (silver)	..	..	2,851,461
5 cents (nickel)	..	..	595,600
1 cent (copper)	..	..	821,637
$\frac{1}{2}$ cent (copper)	..	..	318,068

PUBLIC DEBT.

The nett sterling debt of the Colony on September 30, 1923, stood at £10,174,239, and the rupee debt at Rs. 1,952,584.

The nett total public debt is less than two years' revenue, calculating the nett sterling debt at fifteen rupees to the pound sterling.

CEYLON SAVINGS BANK.

The Ceylon Savings Bank had a sum of Rs. 4,903,716 to credit of 43,504 depositors on December 31, 1923, against Rs. 4,619,561 to credit of 42,194 depositors on December 31, 1922. The amount of the bank's invested funds on December 31, 1923, was Rs. 5,487,728, which include investments made from the reserve fund of Rs. 743,657. The interest paid to depositors amounted to Rs. 155,045. Interest was allowed at the rate of 4 per cent. on sums of Rs. 1,000 and under, and 3 per cent. on sums above Rs. 1,000.

The rules of the bank were amended in September, 1923, so as to afford an opportunity to those residing outside the Colony to continue their deposits without loss of interest after one year,



The increases in volume, as represented approximately by the total tonnage of cargoes, were : imports 5·8 per cent., exports ·6 per cent., and total trade 2·9 per cent.

The rates of the bank were amended in September, 1923, so as to afford an opportunity to those residing outside the Colony to continue their deposits without loss of interest after one year.

or to become new depositors, and to provide for the opening of the bank on Saturdays for public business. Accounts may be opened with a minimum deposit of 50 cents; and not more than Rs. 1,000 can be deposited in one year irrespective of withdrawals. The maximum sum that a depositor may have to his credit is Rs. 3,000.

Charitable institutions or societies may deposit Rs. 2,500 per annum up to Rs. 7,500.

DEATH DUTIES.

Estates of persons whose deaths occurred on or after July 1, 1919, are chargeable with duty under the Estate Duty Ordinance, No. 8 of 1919, which came into operation as from that date.

During the financial year 1922-23 a sum of Rs. 1,505,022·28 was collected as estate duty on 1,938 estates, as against Rs. 1,069,960·40 collected during the previous year on 1,811 estates. In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 31,197·50 was paid as stamp duty on probates and letters of administration in respect of the estates of persons who died before July 1, 1919. The largest estate dealt with was of the value of Rs. 1,656,634·32, and the amount of duty paid thereon was Rs. 165,663·43.

The total amount of penalties recovered under the Ordinance in respect of 214 cases was Rs. 1,965.

The total duty collected under the Ordinance is over four times the stamp duty formerly collected on probates and letters of administration.

III.—Trade and Shipping.

GENERAL REVIEW.

THE year 1923 showed a general increase in the trade of Ceylon as compared with 1922. The marked depression in trade in the United Kingdom and elsewhere appears to have had little effect upon Ceylon. In fact, the total trade of the Island increased in value by nearly 65 million rupees or 10·7 per cent. as compared with the previous year, and reached the figure of Rs. 666,529,000, the highest recorded in the history of the Island's trade.

As compared with 1922, the value of total imports increased by 3·7 per cent. to Rs. 292,159,000 and the value of exports by 17 per cent. to Rs. 374,370,000. Both these figures constitute records.

The increases in volume, as represented approximately by the total tonnage of cargoes, were: imports 5·8 per cent., exports 6 per cent., and total trade 2·9 per cent.

If we exclude both from imports and exports coal and liquid fuel which was supplied to steamers, we find that remaining imports increased by 3·5 per cent. in value and 4·9 per cent. in volume, whilst exports increased by 17·7 per cent. in value and decreased by 8·9 per cent. in volume, total trade showing an increase of 11 per cent. in value and a decrease of 1·2 per cent. in volume.

The number of steamers entering Colombo harbour with cargo or in ballast increased from 1,754 to 1,897, or 8·1 per cent., with an increase in tonnage from 6,984,128 to 7,693,948, or 10·2 per cent. The number of steamers calling to coal or oil only fell from 453 to 384, a decrease of 18 per cent. in number and 8·9 per cent. in tonnage. The number of sailing ships entering the harbour increased by 10 per cent. to 282. The average tonnage of all steamers was just under 4,000 tons.

Increased trade activity is also reflected in the number of commercial travellers coming to the Island, which rose from 121 in 1922 to 161 during the year under review. Of these, 110 represented British firms.

The following table shows the annual value of imports and exports for a period of ten years, excluding the value of specie and the value of coal and liquid fuel supplied to steamers:—

Year.		Imports. Rs.		Exports. Rs.		Total. Rs.
1914	..	172,317,549	..	218,363,846	..	390,681,395
1915	..	163,637,758	..	273,375,987	..	437,013,745
1916	..	211,500,753	..	297,505,905	..	509,006,658
1917	..	184,123,986	..	304,160,457	..	488,284,443
1918	..	177,716,763	..	211,325,334	..	389,042,097
1919	..	239,323,731	..	367,054,779	..	606,378,570
1920	..	321,275,652	..	268,462,183	..	589,737,835
1921	..	260,897,161	..	256,600,413	..	517,497,574
1922	..	280,414,704	..	297,753,215	..	578,167,919
1923	..	287,947,472	..	351,035,248	..	638,982,720

The values of coal and liquid fuel supplied to steamers since 1918 are as follows:—

Year.			Value of Coal supplied to Vessels. Rs.		Value of Liquid Fuel supplied to Vessels. Rs.
1918	..	..	17,479,335	..	515,123
1919	..	..	32,899,550	..	2,869,327
1920	..	..	36,638,574	..	2,733,738
1921	..	..	27,638,759	..	3,030,034
1922	..	..	16,309,907	..	3,720,575
1923	..	..	13,551,793	..	7,576,801

The total values of Ceylon trade for the last six years, excluding specie but including coal and liquid fuel supplied to steamers, is as follows:—

Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.	Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.
1918	.. 4,070½	1921	.. 5,481½
1919	.. 6,421½	1922	.. 5,982
1920	.. 6,291	1923	.. 6,601

DIAGRAM No. 2

PROPOSED
VALUES
IN
MILLION

Rs. &
100 80

675 45

600 40

525 35

450 30

375 25

300 20

225 15

150 10

75 5

0 0

TOTAL VALUE OF TRADE - CEYLON -

Total Trade

Imports, including Specie

Exports viz, Ceylon Produce

Imports exported and Specie

1913 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 1920 '21 '22 '23

Statistical Department.

11-3-24

Value
Duty

..
..

..
..

Rs.
139,506
52,503

Rs.
113,635
52,112

Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.	Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.
1918	.. 4,070 $\frac{1}{2}$	1921	.. 5,481 $\frac{3}{4}$
1919	.. 6,421 $\frac{1}{2}$	1922	.. 5,982
1920	.. 6,291	1923	.. 6,601

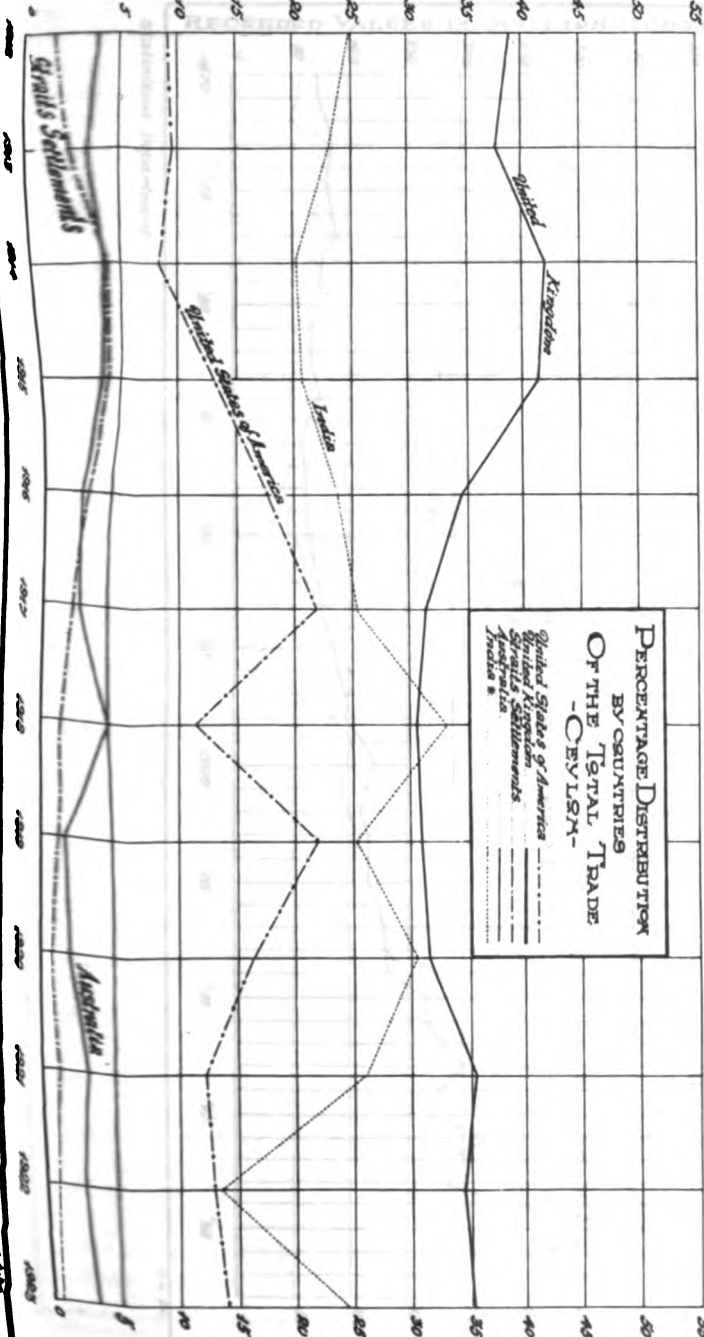
Per cent

DIAGRAM No 3

Per cent

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION
BY COUNTRIES
OF THE TOTAL TRADE
-CEYLON-

United States of America -----
United Kingdom
British India
Ceylon
Australia



Rs.
139,506
52,503

Rs.
113,635
52,112

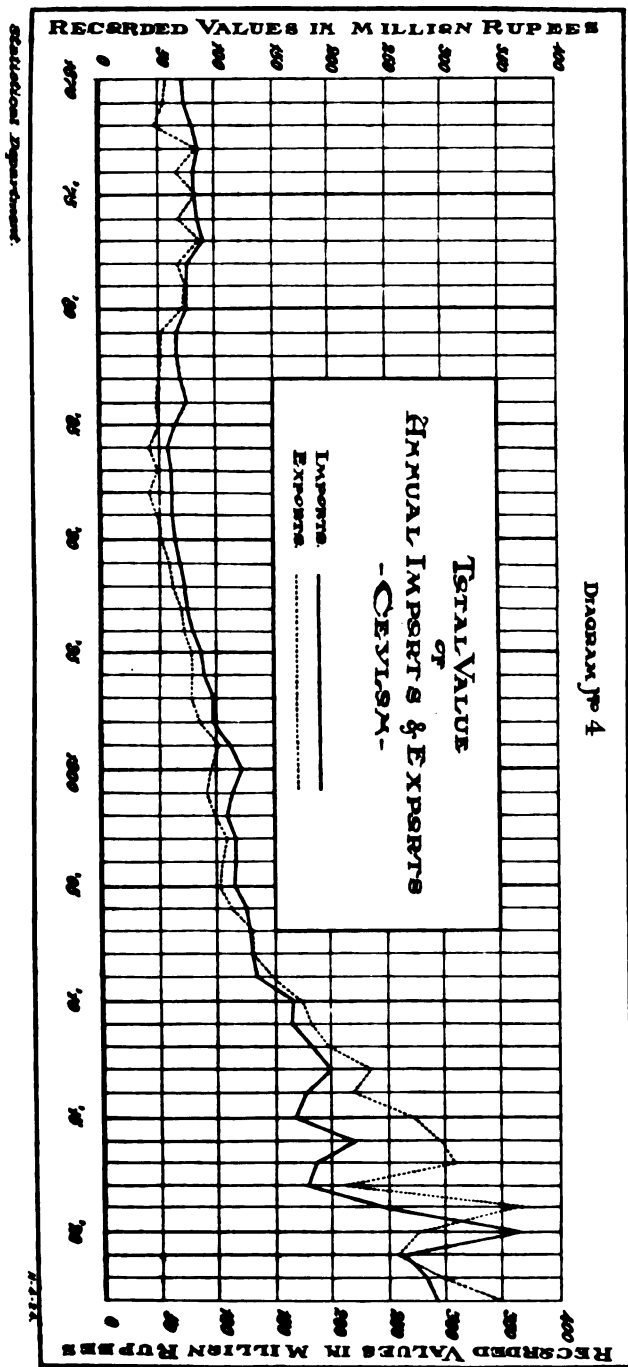
Value
Duty

..

..

..

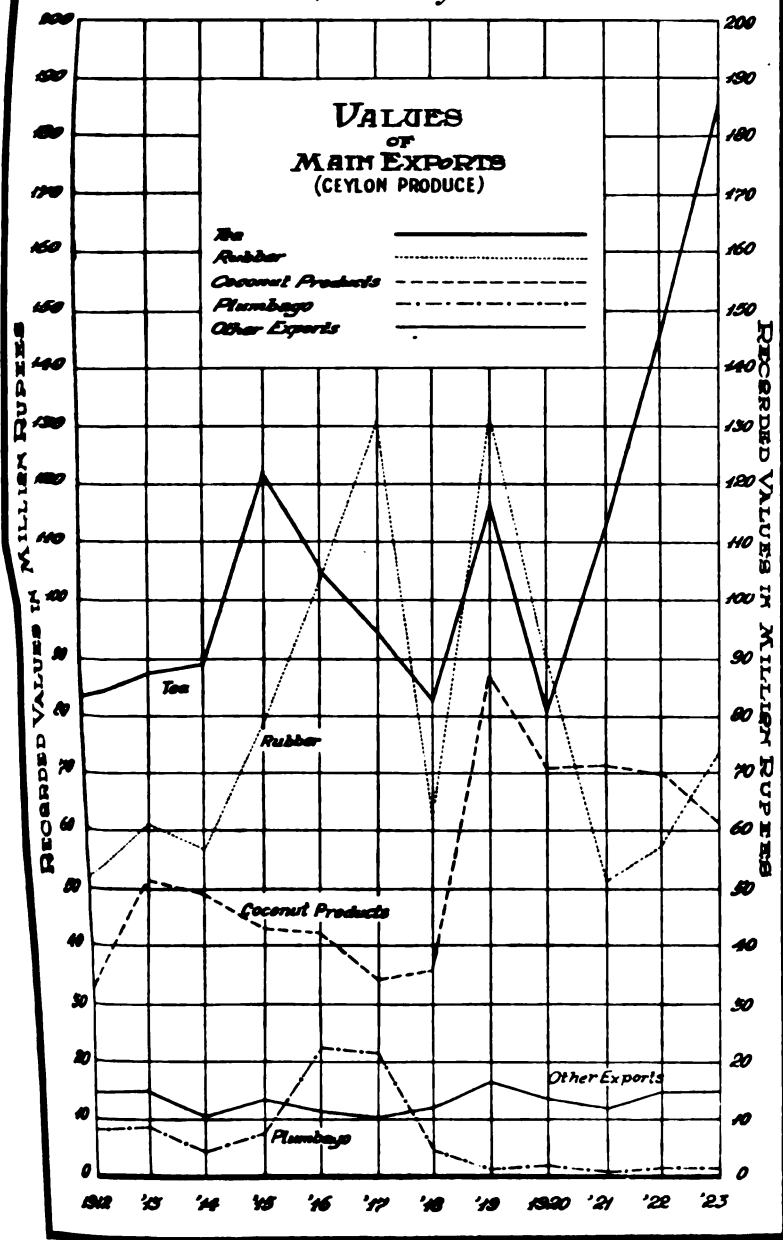
Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.	Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.
1918	4,070 $\frac{1}{2}$	1921	5,481 $\frac{1}{2}$
1919	6,421 $\frac{1}{2}$	1922	5,982
1920	6,291	1923	6,601



			Rs.		Rs.
Value	..	..	139,506	..	113,635
Duty	..	..	52,503	..	52,112

Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.	Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.
1918	.. 4,070 $\frac{1}{2}$	1921	.. 5,481 $\frac{1}{2}$
1919	.. 6,421 $\frac{1}{2}$	1922	.. 5,982
1920	.. 6,291	1923	.. 6,601

DIAGRAM No 5



Statistical Department

H. 2 24

			Rs.		Rs.
Value	..	..	139,506	..	113,635
Duty	..	..	52,503	..	52,112

1918		1919		1920		1921		1922		1923	
..		
4,070½		6,421½		6,291		5,481½		5,932		6,601	

1918

..

4,070½

1919

..

6,421½

1920

..

6,291

1921

LAKHS OF RUPEES.

1922

.. 5,481½

1923

.. 5,932

.. 6,601

CUSTOMS REVENUE.

The total revenue collected by the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 38,725,231·42, a figure which exceeds the previous highest (1922) by Rs. 5,286,204·79, or 15·8 per cent.

The revenue from import duties increased, as compared with the previous year, by Rs. 3,350,567, or 15·6 per cent., while the revenue from export duties increased by Rs. 1,181,615, or 16·1 per cent.

A new tariff was brought into force from October 1, 1922, under which both import and export duties of many articles were increased, and the figures of revenue for 1923 are of particular interest as showing the results of these increases.

The following table shows the revenue collected at the several ports of the Island under the main heads during the years 1922 and 1923, with the percentage of increase under each head and the principal alterations in duty.

[For Table see pages 10 and 11.]

Generally speaking, it seems clear that the Customs duties in Ceylon are still far from having reached that point where an increase in duty imposes a check upon consumption, or in other words, that the prices of imported articles, both necessities and luxuries, are still well within the means of their normal purchasers.

In the only case where the duty on an essential foodstuff was increased, namely, paddy, where the duty was raised from 33 cents per cwt. to 66 cents per cwt., to bring it into line with the duty on rice, imports increased from 629,996 cwt. to 723,973 cwt., or some 15 per cent. In the case of spirits, where the maximum duty was increased by 30 per cent. the revenue increased by over 50 per cent., the total quantity imported increasing by more than 30 per cent.

In only one instance does consumption appear to have been checked by increase of duty, namely, perfumed spirits. The duty on perfumed spirits was increased from Rs. 18·75 per gallon to Rs. 30 per gallon, and the result has been a considerable diminution in importation and a slight decrease in the revenue derived from the duty. The figures are as follows :—

		1922. Gallons.		1923. Gallons.
Quantity imported .. ..	..	1,818	..	1,755
Quantity cleared for home consumption	..	2,089	..	1,623
		Rs.		Rs.
Value .. ..	..	139,506	..	113,635
Duty .. ..	..	52,503	..	52,112

Revenue collected during the Years 1922 and 1923 classified according to Main Heads.

	1922.		1923.		Percentage of Increase or Decrease.	Remarks.
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.		
<i>Import Duties.</i>						
Cotton Manufactures	1,409,836	78	1,496,341	33	.. + 6	Unchanged. 5½ per cent.
Grain	7,603,990	23	8,169,047	23	.. + 7	Duty on paddy increased from 33 to 66 cents.
Kerosine Oil	1,899,873	60	2,406,435	91	.. + 26	Unchanged 30 cents per gallon.
Spirits and Cordials	1,585,278	24	2,389,693	2	.. + 50	Minimum duty increased from Rs. 9·60 to Rs. 12·50.
Sugar	1,686,488	63	1,757,395	56	.. + 4	Duty increased from Rs. 3 to Rs. 3·50.
Other Goods	7,194,060	98	8,511,182	5	.. + 18	Duty increased from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent.
(a) Total Import Duties	21,379,528	46	24,730,095	10	+ 15	
<i>Export Duties.</i>						
Cacao	124,896	56	92,099	56	.. - 26	Unchanged. Re. 1·50 per 100 lb.
Coconut, desiccated	587,193	72	689,920	87	.. + 17	Duty increased from 70 cents to 84 cents.
Coconuts, fresh	54,889	5	47,662	85	.. - 13	Duty increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3.
Coconut Oil	436,273	13	359,578	87	.. - 17	Unchanged. 75 cents per cwt.
Copra	821,340	30	610,091	65	.. - 25	Duty increased from 40 cents to 60 cents.
Plumbago	48,572	15	46,322	89	.. - 4	Unchanged. 3 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
Poonac	—	—	37,101	56	.. —	Duty free, now 35 cents per cwt.
Rubber	2,149,556	88	1,464,196	67	.. - 31	Duty reduced from Rs. 3 to Rs. 2·50.
Tea	3,105,241	45	5,181,806	54	.. + 66	Duty increased from Re. 1·50 to Rs. 3.
Other	33,370	24	14,167	10	.. - 57	Unchanged.
(b) Total Export Duties	7,361,333	48	8,542,948	56	+ 16	
Sundries	35,774	45	38,868	58	.. + 8	—
Grand Total	28,776,636	39	33,311,912	24	+ 15	

Revenue of Colombo Harbour.

Harbour Dues ..	1,892,089 86	..	2,373,360 35	..	+ 25
Warehouse Rent ..	497,376 98	..	605,555 99	..	+ 21
Lake to Harbour Dues ..	522 17*	..	8,498 28	..	16·27
Other Rents ..	326,409 91	..	333,840 95	..	+ 2
Pilotage ..	146,006 24	..	190,156 24	..	+ 30
Railway Traffic ..	28,727 82	..	31,771 84	..	+ 10
Other Harbour Collections ..	138,647 19	..	103,583 54	..	— 25
Revenue of Oil Installations ..	464,240 5	..	†725,590 98	..	+ 56

Dues leviable at Outports.

Port Dues ..	25,193 30	..	29,601 56	..	+ 17
Warehouse Rent ..	61,176 7	..	80,130 7	..	+ 31
Others ..	12,384 0	..	13,442 0	..	+ 8
Grand Total ..	3,592,773 59		4,495,531 80		+ 25

Medical Aid (Export Duties)	..	1,064,059 5	..	912,169 75	..	— 14
Sundries ..	..	5,557 60	..	5,617 63	..	+ 1
Grand Total ..	..	1,069,616 65		917,787 38		— 14

* Total for one month.

† Total for eleven months.

DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE AND FOREIGN COMPETITION.

The percentage of the Island's imports supplied by Foreign Countries rose in value from 17·95 in 1922 to 19·75 in the year under review. The percentage supplied by the United Kingdom was 22·39, almost the same as in 1922, whilst British Colonies and Possessions supplied 57·86 per cent., as compared with 59·63 per cent. in the previous year. 72 per cent. in value of the total imports came from the United Kingdom, British India, and Burma. British India replaced Burma as the chief supplier, owing to increase in the imports of rice and of fish guano and manure from that country. Australia advanced from 8th to 5th place, owing mainly to imports of railway sleepers, whilst Natal went down from 4th to 9th. Germany occupied 12th place, with supplies amounting to 1·37 per cent. of the total.

As purchasers of the Colony's exports, the first four countries in order of the value of their purchases remain the same, the percentage for 1923 being as follows :—

				Per Cent.
United Kingdom	..	..	..	47·28
United States of America	..	..	..	23·36
Australia	..	..	..	3·8
Germany	..	..	..	2·72

Italy dropped from 5th to 10th place.

In the value of total trade both the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries show a slight increase in percentage at the expense of British Possessions; in both cases the increase is due to a decline in the imports from British Possessions.

Comparative percentages for the last three years of the value of imports, exports, and total trade are as follows. The figures are exclusive of imported rubber and of coal, liquid fuel, and other ships' stores :—

		1921.		1922.		1923.
		Per Cent.		Per Cent.		Per Cent.
<i>Imports—</i>						
United Kingdom	..	25·32	..	22·42	..	22·39
British Possessions	..	58·76	..	59·63	..	57·86
Foreign Countries	..	15·92	..	17·95	..	19·75
<i>Exports—</i>						
United Kingdom	..	46·22	..	46·27	..	46·64
British Possessions	..	16·38	..	16·36	..	17·01
Foreign Countries	..	37·40	..	37·37	..	36·35
<i>Total Trade—</i>						
United Kingdom	..	35·74	..	34·78	..	35·81
British Possessions	..	37·64	..	37·21	..	35·25
Foreign Countries	..	26·62	..	28·01	..	28·94

The principal countries from which Ceylon's imports are obtained, with the percentage of the total value supplied by each for the last three years, are shown in the following table :—

	1921. Per Cent.	1922. Per Cent.	1923. Per Cent.
1. British India ..	24·51	24·24	29·06
2. United Kingdom ..	25·08	22·14	22
3. Burma ..	23·01	26·95	20·59
4. Java ..	3·04	2·68	3·29
5. Australia ..	2·32	1·82	2·94
6. Borneo (excluding British)	1·48	2·3	2·7
7. United States of America..	2·72	2·39	2·24
8. Japan ..	1·57	1·85	1·89
9. Natal ..	3·4	2·73	1·69
10. Holland ..	1·06	1·13	1·55
11. Maldiv Islands ..	1·06	1·29	1·41
12. Germany ..	·56	1·32	1·37
13. Straits Settlements ..	2·7	1·56	1·27
14. Persia ..	1·53	1·73	1·02
15. Sumatra ..	·9	·63	·88
16. Belgium ..	·16	·37	·61
17. Russia in Asia ..	—	—	·61
18. France ..	·74	·78	·58
19. Canada ..	·27	·13	·55
20. Italy ..	·45	·48	·5
21. India, excluding British ..	·04	·21	·49
22. Hong Kong ..	·58	·52	·44
23. Mozambique ..	—	·31	·33
24. Switzerland ..	·19	·13	·32
25. Other British Possessions in Africa ..	1·06	·49	·27
26. China ..	·31	·18	·25
27. Sweden ..	·25	·24	·21
28. Mauritius ..	—	·22	·14
29. Aden ..	·04	·12	·13
30. Norway ..	·06	·13	·12

The values of the staple products exported from Ceylon during the last five years are as follows :—

	Lakhs of Rupees.				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
1. Tea ..	1,165	808	1,127	1,460	1,857
2. Rubber ..	1,321	900	516	570	736
3. Coconut, desiccated ..	249	183	266	202	227
4. Copra ..	323	284	242	288	181
5. Coconut oil ..	257	199	150	149	139
6. Aracanuts ..	30	29	33	33	35
7. Coir fibre ..	17	16	11	18	24
8. Cacao ..	31	25	20	31	22
9. Citronella oil ..	9	11	11	16	21
10. Cinnamon ..	37	21	18	20	21
11. Coir yarn ..	11	8	6	13	20
12. Plumbago ..	17	21	8	16	15
13. Coconuts, fresh ..	3	10	24	18	13
14. Tobacco, unmanufactured	6	8	6	10	7
15. Skins (dressed and un- dressed) ..	10	9	6	6	7
16. Poonac (coconut) ..	5	6	9	8	6
17. Cardamoms ..	9	5	5	5	6

Exports of Ceylon Staple Products, 1919-1923.

The quantities exported during the same years are :—

		1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
1. Tea	.. lb.	208,560,943	184,770,231	161,610,966	171,807,581	181,939,731
2. Rubber	.. cwt.	900,197	790,648	786,834	933,886	748,359
3. Coconut, desiccated	.. cwt.	675,060	518,735	870,515	768,215	818,793
4. Copra	.. cwt.	1,759,525	1,357,870	1,367,431	1,686,589	1,015,465
5. Coconut oil	.. cwt.	675,999	507,527	484,724	554,626	480,543
6. Arecanuts	.. cwt.	150,457	124,048	131,045	133,531	160,578
7. Coir fibre	.. cwt.	239,391	252,568	202,267	319,125	359,082
8. Cacao	.. cwt.	58,884	56,397	62,245	83,210	60,904
9. Citronella oil	.. lb.	992,850	1,022,809	1,160,555	1,299,889	1,121,271
10. Cinnamon	.. cwt.	68,755	35,121	45,364	42,974	44,984
11. Coir yarn	.. cwt.	112,076	72,438	60,710	102,688	105,088
12. Plumbago	.. cwt.	133,428	184,100	86,996	216,999	213,383
13. Coconuts, fresh	.. No.	3,390,710	9,776,479	23,738,542	22,317,747	15,963,670
14. Tobacco, unmanufactured	.. lb.	1,739,392	3,590,474	2,411,419	4,334,595	2,951,094
15. Skins (dressed and undressed)	.. cwt.	12,899	12,925	8,353	9,061	8,605
16. Poonac (coconut)	.. cwt.	87,341	92,452	160,699	115,479	116,549
17. Cardamoms	.. cwt.	4,870	3,754	4,512	4,096	2,788

The principal countries buying Ceylon produce and manufactures are given in the following table, with the percentage of value taken by each :—

	1921. Per Cent.	1922. Per Cent.	1923. Per Cent.
1. United Kingdom ..	47·47	47·40	47·28
2. United States of America ..	22	22·32	23·36
3. Australia ..	4·87	4·27	3·8
4. Germany ..	4·05	3·8	2·72
5. Canada ..	1·73	2·39	2·65
6. British India ..	3·12	2·2	2·2
7. Egypt ..	1·31	1·46	2·18
8. New Zealand ..	1·45	1·75	2·03
9. Norway ..	1·13	1·19	1·88
10. Italy ..	1·91	3·29	1·57
11. Denmark ..	2·14	1·6	1·16
12. Natal ..	·72	1	1·11
13. France ..	·58	·17	1·02
14. Belgium ..	1·09	1·15	·96
15. Cape Colony ..	·7	·81	·9
16. Holland ..	3·01	1·55	·86
17. South America (excluding Chili) ..	·19	·34	·53
18. Japan ..	·47	·4	·51
19. Other British Possessions in Asia ..	·03	—	·49
20. Sweden ..	·37	·28	·42
21. Straits Settlements ..	·39	·41	·41
22. Spain (excluding Gibraltar) ..	·29	·22	·31
23. Philippine Islands ..	·25	·28	·29
24. Newfoundland ..	·1	·17	·19
25. Other British Possessions in Africa ..	·14	·2	·18
26. Turkey in Asia ..	·02	·05	·15

NOTES ON THE PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

Wheat Flour (no change in duty).—Imports increased from 240,524 cwt. in 1922 to 275,395 cwt. in 1923. As in the previous year, the imports from Australia showed an increase, while those from British India declined. There were no imports from the United Kingdom, and a negligible quantity only from Burma.

Rice (no change in duty).—The rice trade of the Island has settled down again after the severe shortage which necessitated the imposition of food control in 1920, and competition amongst merchants produced a fall in prices. Imports increased, as compared with the previous year, by 214,676 cwt., or 3 per cent., to a total of 7,423,833 cwt. The average market value fell from Rs. 18·39 a cwt. to Rs. 11·35 a cwt. Imports from British India were 2,720,670 cwt., or nearly double the imports in the previous year. Imports from Burma, on the other hand, decreased by a million cwt. to 4,567,744 cwt. There were no imports from Siam.

Other Grains (duty on paddy increased from 33 cents a cwt. to 66 cents a cwt., other duties unchanged).—The total imports increased from 956,559 cwt. in 1922 to 1,134,443 cwt. in 1923, or some 16·5 per cent. Imports of paddy rose from 629,996 cwt. to 723,973 cwt., an increase of 15 per cent. The figures for the last ten years of rice and other grains are as follows :—

Imports during the Period 1914–23.

Year.	Rice. Cwt.	Other Grains. Cwt.	Year.	Rice. Cwt.	Other Grains. Cwt.
1914 ..	7,400,269	913,462	1919 ..	5,342,575	1,433,295
1915 ..	7,173,778	937,703	1920 ..	5,788,730	1,310,996
1916 ..	8,073,964	1,117,413	1921 ..	5,859,957	1,324,895
1917 ..	7,754,121	1,102,566	1922*	7,209,157	956,559
1918 ..	6,472,152	815,161	1923*	7,423,833	1,134,443

* Includes imports by Government and private firms.

Sugar (duty on refined sugar increased from Rs. 3 per cwt. to Rs. 3·50 a cwt., duty on unrefined sugar unchanged).—The imports of sugar showed a decrease of 3 per cent., the total imports in 1922 being 571,073 cwt. and in 1923 553,191 cwt. As in the previous year, the bulk of the imports of refined sugar was obtained from Java, whilst unrefined sugar and jaggery came almost exclusively from British India.

Manufactured Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes. (The duties were increased as follows :—Manufactured tobacco and cigars, Rs. 3 a lb. to Rs. 4 a lb. ; cigarettes, Rs. 4 a lb. to Rs. 5 a lb.).—The quantities of each cleared for home consumption during the last five years and in 1913 have been as follows :—

Year.	Cigars. lb.	Cigarettes. lb.	Manufactured Tobacco. lb.	Total. lb.
1913 ..	22,051	318,955	48,258	389,264
1919 ..	11,820	303,142	13,625	328,587
1920 ..	12,198	371,575	29,034	412,807
1921 ..	8,092	319,005	23,330	350,427
1922 ..	8,883	330,071	21,429	360,383
1923 ..	7,387	327,482	21,354	356,223

As in previous years, cigarettes and manufactured tobacco were imported almost exclusively from the United Kingdom whilst cigars came mainly from the Philippines, British India and Holland.

Spirits (minimum duty increased from Rs. 9·60 a proof gallon to Rs. 12·50 a proof gallon).—159,047 proof gallons of spirits of all kinds were cleared for home consumption during the year as compared with 120,373 proof gallons in the previous year an increase of over 32 per cent.

The number of proof gallons of whisky imported was almost exactly the same as in the previous year. In the case of brandy there was an increase of 55·7 per cent., and in the case of gin of 42·2 per cent. In both these latter cases the increase was mainly in the cheaper varieties. Whisky was obtained exclusively from the United Kingdom, the bulk of the brandy came from France, whilst the United Kingdom supplied one-sixth of the gin imported and Holland the remainder.

The quantities of the three chief kinds cleared for home consumption during the last three years are as follows :—

		Proof Gallons.		
		1921.	1922.	1923.
Brandy..	..	24,269	20,509	33,893
Gin ..	..	34,131	45,387	67,252
Whisky..	..	62,885	54,477	57,902
Total ..		121,285	120,373	159,047

Cotton, Manufactured and Raw (cotton yarn and twist, bleached, dyed, gray, and other, and cotton piece goods, duty unchanged ; other cotton goods increased from 5½ per cent. to 10 per cent.).—The total value of imports of cotton goods was Rs. 26,954,348, an increase of 16 per cent. upon the previous year's imports. Government imports were valued at Rs. 254,287, as against Rs. 149,276. The imports of piece goods of all kinds were to the value of Rs. 23,655,863, an increase of nearly 19 per cent. over the previous year.

Bleached yarn and twist : Imports rose from 12,829 lb. valued at Rs. 17,284 in 1922 to 62,356 lb. valued at Rs. 28,631 in 1923. In 1922 the value of imports from British India was double those from the United Kingdom, whereas in the year under review imports from British India were valued under Rs. 3,000, whilst those from the United Kingdom were valued at over Rs. 25,000.

Yarn and twist, dyed : Imports decreased by 24,000 lb., or about 17 per cent., the bulk of the imports, as in the previous year, coming from British India.

Piece goods, bleached : The value of imports was Rs. 6,740,549, an increase of Rs. 2,141,000 over the previous year. The increase was mainly in the imports from the United Kingdom, which supplied Rs. 6,144,000 out of the total.

Piece goods, dyed : Imports increased in value by Rs. 2,222,000, and reached the total value of Rs. 11,308,725. Imports from the United Kingdom doubled in value, whilst those from British India showed a considerable decrease. British India, however, still remains the largest supplier, with about four-elevenths of the total. Other increases were Holland (the third largest supplier) and Japan.

Piece goods, gray : Imports showed an increase of over half a million rupees, and came mainly from the United Kingdom. Imports from the United States of America decreased, whilst those from Japan increased, so that Japan now takes the place of the United States of America as the second largest supplier.

Piece goods, printed : These are imported almost exclusively from the United Kingdom, and show a small increase.

Piece goods, muslin : The value of imports decreased by about 10 per cent., but whilst in 1922 British India supplied about three-fourths of the total and the United Kingdom about one-fifth, in 1923 62 per cent. of the imports came from the United Kingdom, 27 per cent. from Switzerland, and only 11 per cent. from British India.

Lace and net : The value of imports decreased slightly. Imports from the United Kingdom and from Germany increased, whilst those from Switzerland and British India decreased.

Embroidery : The value of imports increased by 50 per cent. Out of a total value of Rs. 233,000, Switzerland supplied Rs. 214,000 and the United Kingdom Rs. 15,000.

Coal (duty free).—Imports decreased from 581,716 tons valued at Rs. 22,215,006 in 1922 to 544,548 tons valued at Rs. 16,844,433 in 1923. The average value of coal was Rs. 38·36 a ton in 1922 and Rs. 30·93 in 1923. Imports from British India, Mozambique, and Australia increased, whilst those from the United Kingdom, Natal, and other British Possessions in Africa decreased.

Imports from Natal now exceed those from the United Kingdom, whilst British India come third. Government imports increased from 58,616 tons to 196,660 tons. 447,041 tons of coal were supplied to ships for bunkers during the year.

Liquid Fuel (duty free).—Imports during 1923 were 32,179,572 gallons, or, at 250 gallons to a ton, 128,718 tons, an increase of over 24 per cent. on the previous year. Nearly five-sixths of the total imports came from the British and the Dutch Indies, the remaining one-sixth came from Persia. A little more than 124,000 tons were supplied to ships for bunkers.

Kerosine Oil (duty unchanged).—Imports fell by approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons to 5,841,000. This fall is due, not to a decrease in consumption, but to the comparatively large stocks held in the Island at the end of the previous year. Of the total imports, about $5\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons were imported in bulk, importations in case being only a little over a quarter of a million gallons.

The largest supplier of bulk oil in 1923 was Russia in Asia, which supplied nearly 2 million gallons out of the total. Persia

supplied a little less, and the remainder came from the United States of America, from which country came also the bulk of the case oil.

Petrol (duty unchanged).—Imports increased by over half a million gallons, as compared with 1922 ; the imports for the last five years being as follows :—

Year.	Gallons.	Year.	Gallons.
1919	.. 1,175,784	1922	.. 1,389,363
1920	.. 988,427	1923	.. 1,959,474
1921	.. 1,381,671		

As in the last two years, petrol was obtained almost exclusively from Sumatra, other imports amounting only to 6,504 gallons.

Manure (duty free).—Increased expenditure upon the cultivation of estates is reflected in the increased importations of manure, which in 1923 reached the total of 1,520,719 cwt., an increase of 27 per cent. on 1922.

The chief kind imported was bone meal (293,000 cwt.), groundnut poonac being a close second (282,000 cwt.), and fish guano third (252,000 cwt.). As in previous years, British India was the chief source of supply. The total value of imports in 1923 is estimated at Rs. 9,226,386, as compared with Rs. 8,435,388 in 1922.

Horses (duty in 1922 was $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on animals valued at over Rs. 1,000, now free).—161 horses were imported, as compared with 127 in 1922. 71 came from the United Kingdom, 56 from Australia, and 27 from India.

Motor Cars (duty increased from $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 10 per cent.) and *Motor Lorries* (duty $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. unchanged).—The number of motor cars imported during 1923 was very nearly double that of 1922, the actual figures being 968 cars in 1923 and 487 in 1922. The value of the cars imported in 1923 was Rs. 2,473,439, as compared with Rs. 1,603,555 in 1922.

The average value of the British cars imported in 1923 was Rs. 4,092, whilst the average value of the cars imported from the United States of America and Canada is Rs. 2,278.

The number of British cars imported rose from 61 to 108, whilst the number of American cars (imported from the United States of America or Canada) rose from 368 to 765. Only 13 cars were obtained from Italy, as against 40 in the previous year, whilst French cars numbered 80, as against 13. The imports of chassis for motor cars, which in 1922 were 53, fell in 1923 to 6.

There is a remarkable increase in the number of motor lorries (including chassis) imported, the number rising from 44 in 1922 valued at Rs. 204,236 to 318 in 1923 valued at Rs. 891,689.

Twenty-three came from the United Kingdom, one each from Italy and Germany, and the remainder from the United States of America or Canada.

Metals and Metalware : Ferrous Metals (changes in duty too various to indicate in detail).—The value of imports rose from Rs. 7,863,131 to Rs. 9,085,375. Government imports declined from Rs. 2,952,680 to Rs. 1,459,137. The total imports show a decrease of Rs. 271,299.

The more important increases are in galvanized iron sheets (both flat and corrugated), tubes, pipes and fittings, barbed wire, wire nails, steel bars, rods, angles, shapes, &c., and kitchen utensils, whilst the more important decreases are noted in iron bars, rods, angles, shapes, &c., hoop iron, and plain wire.

The first five sources of supply of ferrous metals in order of value remain the same as in the previous year, and are as follows :—

- (1) United Kingdom.
- (2) Germany.
- (3) Belgium.

- (4) United States of America.
- (5) British India.

The total value of imports from the United Kingdom was Rs. 8,542,446.

Non-ferrous Metals and Manufactures thereof (changes in duty too various to indicate in detail).—The value of total imports was Rs. 4,756,194, as compared with Rs. 4,360,859 in 1922. As in 1922, Burma still heads the list as the chief sources of supply, though the value of the imports from that country shows a slight decrease, whilst the value of imports from the United Kingdom has increased and is now very close to the Burma figure.

Cement (duty changed from 20 cents a cwt. to 30 cents a cwt.).—Imports by private firms increased from 322,685 cwt. in 1922 to 462,122 cwt. in 1923. The Government imports fell from 137,647 cwt. to 59,215 cwt. The average value of the total imports fell from Rs. 28·88 to Rs. 20·49.

Momi and other Tea Chests.—Importations of Momi and other chests rose to just under 2 million chests, as compared with 1,122,000 in the previous year. Of this, 1½ million valued at nearly 24 lakhs of rupees came from Japan and 372,000 valued at 11½ lakhs of rupees from the United Kingdom. It is estimated that roughly 3 million cases were used in Ceylon during the year for the export of rubber, tea, and desiccated coconut. This rough estimate is based upon the quantities of these products exported. It will thus be seen that, roughly, two imported cases were used to one case of local production.

NOTES ON PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Tea (duty increased from Re. 1·50 per 100 lb. to Rs. 3 per 100 lb.).—The quantities exported during the last seven years are shown below in millions of pounds. The average price rose from 85 cents in 1922 to Re. 1·02 in 1923. The total value of tea exported rose from 146 million rupees to 185½ million rupees:—

Year.	Million Pounds.	Year.	Million Pounds.
1917	195	1921	161
1918	180	1922	172
1919	208	1923	182
1920	184		

The distribution among principal countries with their increases or decreases is shown in the following table. It will be seen that the largest increase in exports are to Egypt and other British Possessions in Asia and the United States of America, whilst the largest decrease is in the case of Australia:—

	1923. lb.	1922. lb.	Increase. lb.	Decrease. lb.
United Kingdom	119,768,283	117,537,328	2,230,955	—
<i>British Possessions.</i>				
Australia	10,815,635	12,129,042	—	1,313,407
British India	1,854,021	994,165	859,856	—
Canada	7,261,404	6,762,025	499,379	—
Cape Colony	2,556,179	2,446,319	109,860	—
Egypt	4,899,968	2,579,687	2,320,281	—
Hong Kong	203,480	198,548	4,932	—
Mauritius	231,401	382,324	—	150,923
Natal	3,232,364	3,145,645	86,719	—
Newfoundland	648,616	564,592	84,024	—
New Zealand	6,386,188	5,599,804	786,384	—
Other British Possessions in Africa	580,192	669,698	—	89,506
Other British Possessions in Asia	1,600,377	100,549	1,499,828	—
Straits Settlements	897,605	937,359	—	39,754
Zanzibar	145,781	127,325	18,456	—
Other British Possessions	192,507	157,562	34,945	—
	41,505,718	36,794,644	6,304,664	1,593,590
Deduct Decrease			1,593,590	
Nett Increase			4,711,074	

<i>Foreign Countries.</i>	1923. lb.	1922. lb.	Increase. lb.	Decrease. lb.
Chili	237,119 ..	52,369 ..	184,750 ..	—
China (excluding Hong Kong) ..	114,235 ..	77,511 ..	36,724 ..	—
Denmark ..	110,878 ..	95,388 ..	15,490 ..	—
France ..	1,244,839 ..	1,163,966 ..	80,873 ..	—
Germany ..	119,463 ..	177,400 ..	— ..	57,937
Italy ..	188,949 ..	92,489 ..	96,460 ..	—
Japan ..	372,552 ..	263,660 ..	108,892 ..	—
Mozambique ..	107,206 ..	104,684 ..	2,522 ..	—
Other Foreign Countries in Africa ..	161,306 ..	88,170 ..	73,136 ..	—
South America (excluding Chili) ..	317,446 ..	713,077 ..	604,369 ..	—
Turkey in Asia ..	450,152 ..	134,457 ..	315,695 ..	—
Turkey in Europe ..	118,709 ..	40,676 ..	78,033 ..	—
United States of America	15,550,436 ..	13,956,861 ..	1,593,575 ..	—
Other Foreign Countries ..	538,893 ..	514,901 ..	23,992 ..	—
	<u>20,632,183</u>	<u>17,475,609</u>	<u>3,214,511</u>	<u>57,937</u>
			Deduct Decrease ..	57,937
			Nett Increase ..	<u>3,156,574</u>
Ships' stores *	33,547 ..	— ..	33,547 ..	—
Total ..	<u>181,939,731</u>	<u>171,807,581</u>	<u>10,132,150</u>	

* In 1922 the quantity supplied to vessels has been included in the respective countries according to the destination of the vessel.

Coconuts.—The exports of the three principal products of the coconut palm for the past five years have been—

Year.	Desiccated. Coconut. Cwt.	Copra. Cwt.	Coconut Oil. Cwt.
1919 ..	675,060	1,759,525	675,999
1920 ..	518,735	1,357,870	507,527
1921 ..	870,515	1,367,431	484,724
1922 ..	768,215	1,686,589	554,626
1923 ..	818,793	1,015,465	480,543

The total value of these three products as entered by the exporters fell from $64\frac{3}{4}$ million rupees in 1922 to $54\frac{3}{4}$ million rupees in 1923. It will be seen that the only increase is in the case of desiccated nuts; copra and coconut oil both showing considerable decreases. This decrease is to be attributed to unusual dry weather at the end of 1922.

Desiccated Coconuts (duty increased from 70 cents to 84 cents per cwt.).—Of the total quantity exported a little more than one-third went to the United States of America, and very nearly the same quantity to the United Kingdom. Of the 818,793 cwt., 336,000 went to the United States of America and 284,000 cwt. to the United Kingdom, the next largest purchaser being Germany with 53,500 cwt. (a considerable decrease from 1922).

The average price per lb. as entered by the exporters was 23 cents, the same as in the previous year.

Copra (duty increased from 40 cents to 60 cents a cwt.).—Norway, which in 1922 was only the sixth largest buyer, was the largest buyer in 1923, taking 262,482 cwt., Italy being second with 219,471 cwt., and Denmark third with 198,883 cwt.

Exports to the United Kingdom dropped from 253,143 cwt. to 71,437 cwt., and exports to the United States of America from 60,000 cwt. to 6,000 cwt.

Coconut Oil (duty unchanged).—The United Kingdom was still the largest purchaser, but the quantity taken fell to 153,347 cwt., or a little more than half that taken in the previous year. Germany with 142,615 cwt. was second on the list, as in 1922, and Egypt third with 64,929 cwt.

Rubber (duty decreased from Rs. 3 to Rs. 2·50 per 100 lb.).—The effects of restriction are seen in the decrease in the total exports from 104,595,278 lb. in 1922 to 83,816,228 lb. in 1923. With the rise in price due to the same cause, however, the value of rubber exported in 1923 was Rs. 73,594,349, as against Rs. 56,970,218 in 1922.

The United States of America is again by far the largest buyer, taking two-thirds of the total quantity exported. Exports to the United Kingdom show a very slight increase, and represent a quarter of the total. Exports to France were nearly treble of last year's exports, whilst exports to Germany fell to less than half of the previous year's figure.

SHIPPING.

3,677 vessels entered the various ports of the Island, as against 3,658 in 1922. The tonnage respectively was 9,602,984 and 9,087,732. The following table shows the classification under four general heads:—

	1922.		1923.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
Merchant vessels (with cargo and in ballast) ..	2,209	7,297,713	2,339	8,052,459
Merchant vessels (called to coal and oil) ..	454	1,401,750	387	1,285,004
Native sailing vessels ..	915	93,231	901	91,529
Warships and transports *	80	295,038	50	173,992
	<u>3,658</u>	<u>9,087,732</u>	<u>3,677</u>	<u>9,602,984</u>

* Warships' displacement tonnage.

The following table shows the comparative distribution of merchant vessels, including those which called only for the purpose of coaling:—

Nationality.	1922.		1923.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
British ..	1,894	5,740,260	1,906	6,115,626
British Colonial ..	915	93,231	901	91,529
Total British Vessels ..	2,809	5,833,491	2,807	6,207,155
American ..	32	127,992	18	72,641
Austrian ..	4	11,279	—	—
Chinese ..	2	7,739	—	—
Czecho-Slovakian ..	2	5,445	—	—
Danish ..	18	45,556	20	53,306
Dutch ..	209	862,416	189	746,584
Finish ..	—	—	2	4,984
French ..	115	506,446	122	574,372
German ..	74	288,846	108	430,725
Greek ..	1	2,581	—	—
Italian ..	55	184,971	60	223,853
Japanese ..	173	719,258	183	852,739
Norwegian ..	51	105,468	80	148,602
Panamanian ..	—	—	1	7,990
Russian ..	—	—	1	4,160
Spanish ..	12	27,402	16	33,895
Swedish ..	21	63,804	20	67,986
Total Foreign Vessels ..	769	2,959,203	820	3,221,837

Excluding warships, transports, and merchant vessels which called only to coal, the distribution according to the flag is shown below:—

Nationality.	1922.		1923.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
British	1,535	4,618,671	1,592	5,064,929
British Colonial	915	93,231	901	91,529
Total British Vessels	2,450	4,711,902	2,493	5,156,458
American	26	109,467	15	60,079
Austrian	1	4,015	—	—
Danish	13	38,176	16	46,216
Dutch	179	759,523	168	676,117
French	99	457,130	121	569,362
German	72	281,358	97	388,039
Italian	47	165,734	57	213,383
Japanese	164	693,923	175	829,233
Norwegian	44	86,571	64	109,870
Spanish	12	27,402	16	33,895
Swedish	17	55,743	18	61,336
Total Foreign Vessels	674	2,679,042	747	2,987,530

COLOMBO OIL INSTALLATIONS SCHEME.

The Oil Installations Scheme as originally designed is now complete, and has been working satisfactorily since the opening of the depôt at Kolonnawa in February, 1922. There has been a rapid increase in the use of oil fuel for bunkers, and Colombo has become one of the most important oil bunkering ports in the East. The demand on the facilities afforded by the single fuel oil pipeline has been so great that steps are now being taken to duplicate the pipeline at the earliest possible date. As regards the depôt itself, the three leading oil companies have now completed the full equipment of their respective installations in the non-dangerous section.

In the dangerous section, the Asiatic Petroleum Company, Limited, has completed the construction of two 3,000-ton tanks and the other buildings necessary for the importation of petrol in bulk. Two shipments of petrol in bulk were discharged at the port during the year under review. A new company, styled the Pennsylvania Oil Company of Ceylon, has also taken a lease of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in the dangerous section, and has completed the construction of a storage shed for the storage of kerosine in drums.

Great difficulty and delay have been caused in the dredging at the oil jetties, owing to the discovery of patches of rock or hard material in the approach channels. Dredging work is now being concentrated on the approach channel to the Graving Dock Guide Pier to make this available at any state of the tide for vessels of 30 feet draught; thereafter the work will be carried on towards the bunkering jetties.

During the year 1923 32 vessels discharged the following quantities of oil :—

				Tons.
Liquid fuel	..	..	..	128,669
Kerosine	..	..	..	22,228
Petrol and Benzine	..	..	..	4,853

and 242 vessels were bunkered with a total quantity of 125,281 tons of liquid fuel.

To provide efficient lighting to enable vessels to be placed alongside after dark, electric lighting was extended to the Graving Dock Guide Pier and to the Oil Discharge Jetty.

Harbour Railway.—Work in connection with the Harbour Rail Connection was practically completed during the year, and the new railway was opened for traffic on July 23, 1923. The maintenance of the railway track from the Wharf Station to the Bloemendhal exchange sidings has been taken over by the Port Commission.

Lake to Harbour Canal.—All the construction works connected with the Lake to Harbour Canal, with a few minor exceptions, were completed in 1923. Deep dredging in the canal was also completed, as also deep dredging in the channels leading to the various mills on the lakeside. Thus it is now possible for practically all millowners on the lake to use 40-ton harbour barges for the transport of produce direct from mill to harbour, warehouse, or ship. The work of fendering the quay walls is almost complete. The Lake to Harbour Canal, including the locks, has been provided with the necessary electric lighting.

The Lake to Harbour Canal, locks, and lakeside warehouses were formally taken over by the Colombo Port Commission in January, 1923.

The goods traffic since the opening of the locks on November 1, 1922, has been as follows :—

				Tons.
November and December, 1922	..	..	..	2,054
January to December, 1923	..	..	..	28,328

A total number of 3,686 lighters, motor launches, and other small craft also passed through the Lake to Harbour Canal in 1923.

Deepening of the Harbour.—The work of deepening the harbour to 36 feet was proceeded with during the year 1923, and already ships with a draught of 33 feet can enter the harbour at any state of the tide. Two berths for vessels of this draught are expected to be completed shortly, in addition to the one already available. One has in fact been dredged, but the depth has not yet been proved. The programme for the deepening of the Suez Canal is being carefully watched with a view to the provision of berths in Colombo harbour deep enough to take any vessel able to pass through the canal.

The port authorities have also given particular attention to the problem of dealing with the large vessels which are now appearing on the Eastern and Australasian run, and with the still larger vessels likely to appear in the immediate future.

A new scheme of moorings for larger ships in Colombo harbour has accordingly been prepared by the Harbour Engineer, Mr. A. D. Prouse, and has been under the consideration of the Port Commission and the Consulting Engineers in England for some time.

The nett tonnage of vessels (sailing and steam) which visited Colombo harbour in 1923 amounted to 9,006,640 tons; in addition, 50 warships and transports with a gross tonnage of 173,982 tons, and coasting vessels with a nett tonnage of 47,801 tons, entered the port. During the past year there has been a considerable increase in shipping visiting the port, which is rapidly reaching its pre-war standard. The number of merchant ships of all nationalities and their tonnage visiting the port in 1913, 1922, and 1923, were as follows:—

			Number of Vessels.		Tonnage.
1913 ..	..	..	2,979	..	9,475,893
1922 ..	..	..	2,463	..	8,416,373
1923 ..	..	..	2,563	..	9,006,640

Twenty-three vessels were docked during the year, and 37 vessels were taken on the Patent Slip; 6 vessels were fumigated.

The receipts from the Graving Dock and Patent Slip brought to account during the year 1923 show a decrease, being Rs. 46,202·40 and Rs. 7,844·43, respectively, against Rs. 82,828·65 and Rs. 8,060·83 in the previous year. The decrease in the number of ships docked was, as far as can be ascertained, purely accidental. Rs. 1,657·50 was received in respect of fumigation, as against Rs. 2,642·50 in 1922.

The total expenditure of the Colombo Port Commission for the financial year 1922–1923, including Rs. 395,630·25 chargeable to Loan Account in respect of the Oil Installations Scheme, Dredging Colombo Harbour, and Government Housing Scheme,

was Rs. 2,457,351·75. Of this amount, Rs. 1,412·70 was expended by the Public Works Department on work for this Department, and a sum of Rs. 47,543·34 was expended by the Colombo Port Commission on account of other Departments. The nett expenditure on Colombo Port Commission services (inclusive of Loan expenditure) was Rs. 2,409,908·41. The revenue during the same period was Rs. 4,393,186·17.

FACTORIES.

There was an increase of 43 in the total number of factories compared to that of 1923, or just over 3 per cent. The actual number of new factories registered during the year was 45, and 2 ceased work permanently. New factories included 11 tea, 8 rubber, 5 tea and rubber, 4 desiccating, 12 fibre, 1 engineering, 2 sawing, 1 aerated water, and 1 grain crushing factories; 1 tea and 1 rubber factories were closed down. The first complete compilation of factories was made at the end of 1908, and the total then was 1,025, at the end of November, 1923, it was 1,369, an increase of 344, or 33·56 per cent. in fifteen years; the number of cases in which steam power is used has been increased by five. It would seem that this power is becoming a favourite prime mover again. Electric lighting installations have increased by one.

IV.—Land.

LAND SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE year 1923 was exceptional on account of unseasonable rain, which not only interfered with fieldwork, but also was the chief cause of an unusual amount of sickness among the staff of the Department. In spite of these difficulties the work was well up to date at the end of the year, and the outturn of settled acreage for the year was only $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. short of the estimate.

Since 1901 settlement surveys covering an area of 3,940,209 acres have been issued to the Department, and the settlement of 3,577,994 is complete, leaving a balance of 362,215 acres in hand. Of this balance area, approximately 68,000 acres lie in the Ratnapura District, 228,000 in the North-Central Province 35,000 in the North-Western Province, and 22,000 in the Southern Province, with small areas in the Kegalla, Colombo Kandy, Matale, and Trincomalee Districts. The large area in the North-Central Province includes 189,000 acres in the Tamankaduwa division, which has been taken up in connection with

the new Batticaloa-Trincomalee Light Railway. This almost uninhabited area has been surveyed on topographical plans and can be speedily settled. The bulk of the acreage in the Southern Province represents a new settlement area in the Bentota-Walallawiti korale of Galle District, the plans of which were received at the end of the year. This area was taken up in connection with the Climatic Forest Reserve, and its settlement presents no great difficulties. The real work, therefore, lies in the Ratnapura District and the North-Western Province, where land is in demand for tea and rubber, and in the North-Western Province for coconut cultivation. The result of the strengthening of the Survey Department is now beginning to be felt, nearly 88,000 acres of new block surveys and 189,000 acres of topographical surveys having been issued during 1923 for settlement purposes; the Land Settlement Department is being correspondingly strengthened, and a gradual but steady increase in the area settled annually can be expected in the future.

FORESTS.

Reforestation.—During the year 1923 the area of plantations was increased from 9,636 acres and 4 perches to 11,151 acres and 4 perches.

Exploitation.—Public Departments were supplied during the year 1923 with 22,065 broad gauge and 11,706 narrow gauge sleepers, 281,004 cubic yards of firewood, 131,839 cubic feet of timber, 202,207 pieces of small round timber and other minor produce, chiefly stone, sand, gravel, &c. This is exclusive of produce utilized by the Public Works, Irrigation, and Chief Construction Engineer's Departments from forest land within their jurisdiction without permits from this Department. The value of these supplies amounted to Rs. 1,574,406, as against Rs. 1,353,514 for the previous year and Rs. 1,351,181 for the year 1921.

Since 1906 the Forest Department has supplied the Railway Department with 980,401 broad gauge and 379,060 narrow gauge sleepers at an average rate of Rs. 3·82 and Re. 1·77, respectively. In this way a very large saving over the cost of imported sleepers has been effected, and the indigenous material has proved more durable than imported supplies.

The revenue received from the public on account of timber, fuel, and minor forest produce during the year 1923 was Rs. 428,714, as against Rs. 392,102 during the year 1922. The miscellaneous revenue amounted to Rs. 31,707, as against Rs. 24,892 in 1922.

The most notable features of the year's working were—

- (1) Coppicing in clear felling fuel contracts in dry zone forests.
- (2) Stock taking in a part of Kanthalai Reserve in the Trincomalee Division for the purpose of considering the future treatment of dry zone forests for the production of large-sized valuable timber, and for impregnation of inferior species, and for the reorganization of supplies to Public Departments.
- (3) The preparation of a working plan report for the conversion of up-country forests for the supply of chests for the tea and rubber industries.
- (4) The lease of 1,000 acres of wet zone forests on easy terms for the production of native tea and rubber chests.
- (5) The afforestation of the Uva patanas for timber and fuel.
- (6) The preparation of a report for the utilization of forests in the vicinity of the main line between Veyangoda and Polgahawela for fuel supplies and reforestation.
- (7) The development of plantations of jak and nedun in suitable localities with a view to securing a sustained output of these most valuable timbers.
- (8) The establishment of arboreta and central nurseries in up-country reforestation.
- (9) A proposal to develop plantations of Australian wattles for the tanning bark industry.
- (10) Afforestation of patana by estates.

(1) *Coppice felling* has already proved highly successful in the wet zone forests of the Southern Division, and is combined with the planting of mahogany (*S. Macrophylla*) among the coppice regrowth. The cut material is utilized for railway firewood, and will continue to be so used until ousted by the mahogany, which will supply the necessary wood from clearings and early thinnings. This work is well established, the only hindrance being the increasing rates for fuel as areas under treatment become more remote for exploitation. It is hoped to counteract this by means of water transport, which is available to some extent. In the dry zone large continuous blocks of forests are being sought out for permanent fuel supplies by means of simple coppice, with the introduction, when required, of coppicing species. In the Northern Province, where fuel is plentiful, better class forests are selected, and the fuel fellings are intended to serve as regeneration fellings, blanks being filled in artificially, and sufficient cover of valuable and inferior species being left for the protection of seedlings.

In up-country forests, where exotics take the place of indigenous forests, clear felling and burning is resorted to, and no change in this method is indicated. Attempts to reforest dry zone areas by clear felling and burning have been definitely abandoned, but the new work is still experimental.

(2) *The exploration of typical reserved forest in the dry zone* was undertaken primarily for the purpose of ascertaining the probable yield of timber for impregnation purposes. This has proved disappointing, and will probably mean the rejection for the time being of any large exploitation schemes for this purpose. Nevertheless the research has proved of great value in indicating the possibilities which exist for sustained exploitation of dry zone forests and the production therein of good timber. It is tentatively held, pending gradual exploration and enumeration in detail, that not more than 15 per cent. of such areas is capable of benefiting from operations for the improvement of the growing stock, while all large-sized timber is rapidly becoming over-mature. At the same time, within the small extent of productive forest occur good specimens of valuable timber in descending age classes. It is, therefore, proposed to work over the reserves systematically by area, exploit their valuable over-mature contents, and, during exploitation, to select and demarcate improvement areas. These will be periodically treated for the encouragement of their valuable species, and for further exploitation after forty to forty-five years, some areas containing as many as forty valuable stems per acre, now suppressed and hampered by creepers. In addition, it is proposed to stock the more accessible areas, after removal of creepers and dead and dying material, with strong transplants of valuable species up to 100 plants per acre, gradually admitting light as the plants become established and require assistance. This work is also experimental, but preliminary reports are encouraging. The result of exploitation by area, instead of according to indent, will result in the selection of large-sized, sound timber for log supplies and the accumulation of stocks of seasoned wood, while supervision in concentrated areas will be facilitated and the forests duly explored in due course. All material not required for log supplies will be converted into sleepers, and only the best and largest logs brought to dépôts. When this work is in force in all divisions, the management of Crown forests will be greatly simplified, and there should be a sustained, approximately even output of timber, leading to greater concentration in future rotations, if improvement fellings and planting can be provided for.

As regards impregnated species, if an impregnation scheme for railway sleepers is adopted, a central plant should be

established in the vicinity of Colombo, to which supplies can be drawn by rail from the respective divisions operating in the annual felling areas.

(3) *Plan for Supply of Tea Chests from Up-country Forests.*—The proposal is to convert about 14,000 acres of indigenous jungle and patana into coniferous forests, for a permanent supply of tea and rubber chests, on account of which some 2½ million rupees now leave the country annually. The proposed period of rotation is eighty years, but this data may be reduced when full data are available. Indigenous jungle will be utilized for firewood and local timber requirements, and the existing license system will be superseded. In this connection the introduction of arboreta and central nurseries is receiving close attention, and seed of numerous coniferous and other species has already been imported.

As regards (4), Government has, with the approval of the Secretary of State, granted a lease for the systematic working of 1,000 acres of wet zone forest to a company under European management. It is hoped that results will justify the extension of the scheme and lead to the gradual supersession of the license system for supplies of raw timber.

(5) *Afforestation of Patanas in the Province of Uva.*—A working plan report is in course of preparation for the increased planting of timber Eucalypts in association with coniferous species.

(6) *Utilization of Forests near the Main Line between Veyangoda and Polgahawela.*—A general inspection has been carried out, and a report submitted on the extent of suitable Crown land available in the area mentioned for the permanent supply of firewood either to the Railway or to a sale dépôt in Colombo with a view to the reforestation of the areas either with valuable timber or fuel species. Only some 13,000 acres in all are available, and the report, which has not yet been dealt with, is not very encouraging, especially as the forest areas are isolated, and there are no very large compact blocks, while the question of transport presents difficulties. The important point is, however, that all land in this vicinity is suitable for reforestation, provided an outlet can be found for the existing material to cover the cost of planting and maintenance. The scheme awaits the duplication of the Railway and the selection of a suitable dépôt in Colombo.

(7) *Jak and Nedun Plantations.*—It is hoped to sustain an annual planting programme of 100 acres for each of these most valuable species. Already 600 acres of jak have been partially planted, under chena agreements, at Mirigama, and these are now being developed so as to form six annual coupes. Further land can be made available if the scheme outlined under the

preceding head materializes, or can be found in other districts where river transport is available. As regards nedun, an experimental area of 50 acres of this most valuable species, planted under tall cover of softwood trees in a medium wet zone, is fulfilling expectations and is capable of development up to 2,000 acres in the same locality. Plantations formed of these two species, which are in perpetual demand for building purposes or furniture, would be a highly profitable investment. The work is not difficult, and is fairly inexpensive. At present supplies are met from dwindling private sources, and the excessive felling of jak in village compounds is attracting notice, in view of the consequent reduction of food supplies.

(8) The establishment of arboreta and central nurseries has been dealt with above.

(9) *Proposed Plantation of Wattle.*—Notice has recently been brought to bear on the possibilities of planting acacias for the tanning industry, and representations have been made by interested parties from England and Australia. It is believed that, with cheap labour available, Ceylon can enter this field of commercial enterprise successfully, while there are large extents of suitable patana land in up-country districts if this can be put at the disposal of the Department. The difficulty is that this land is claimed, or will probably be claimed, for village cattle grazing.

(10) Sanction has recently been received from the Secretary of State to lease suitable Crown land adjoining tea estates for afforestation with fuel species in view of the shortage of fuel up-country. If this scheme develops it may be possible to combine the estate fuel supplies with the commercial planting of acacias for the tanning industry. The scheme is yet in its infancy.

A screen of specimens of the better known timbers of Ceylon was in course of preparation for the Empire Exhibition, but owing to the lateness of Ceylon's entry into the Exhibition it was not possible to secure seasoned specimens of all the timbers required, and existing samples had to be used mainly; certain species were thus inevitably omitted.

SALT.

The manufacture, collection, and sale of Ceylon salt constitute a Government monopoly, which is protected by a duty of Rs. 3 per cwt. on all imported salt. The amount realized by its sale in 1923 was Rs. 1,767,421·82, as against Rs. 1,472,692·93 in 1922 and Rs. 1,911,157·42 in 1921. The increased revenue in 1923 is due to the fact that importations of salt from India ceased, and also that it was possible to revert to normal sales owing to a good salt harvest in 1922.

The local production of salt was satisfactory, and the manufacture was not impaired by the weather, except at Hambantota, where nothing was collected during the "maha" season owing to unseasonable rains. The total yield for the Island during 1923 was 565,576 cwt., as against 779,943 cwt. in 1922. The distribution of the harvest was as follows :—

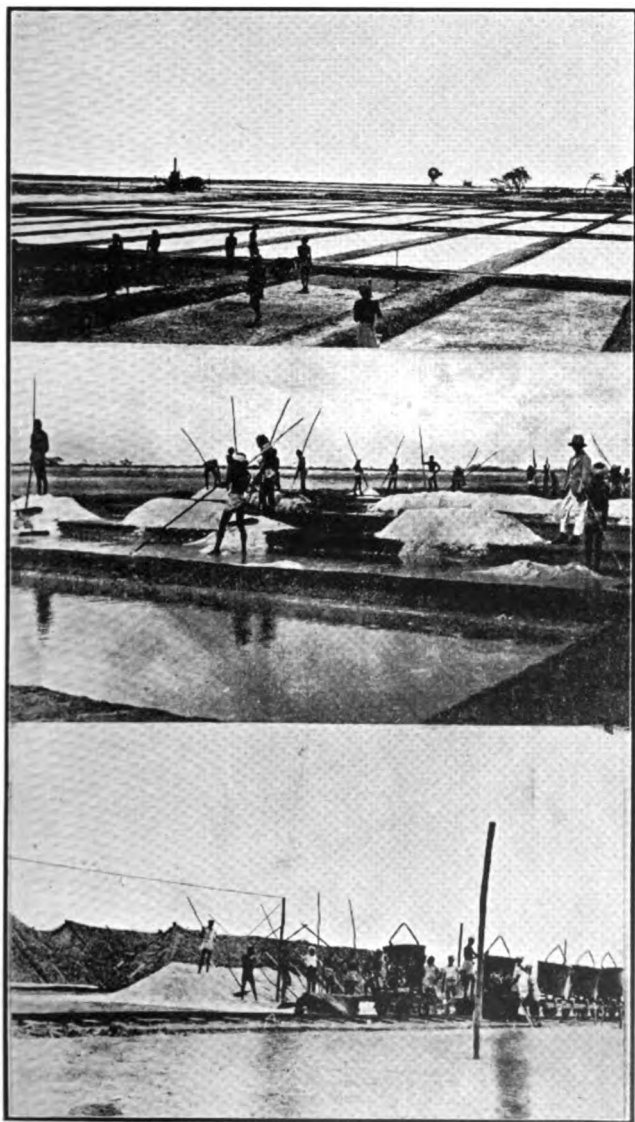
	Cwt.
Hambantota District (yala collection)	63,889
Puttalam District	223,141
Trincomalee District	79,476
Northern Province	46,520
Elephant Pass (Government Saltern)	112,100
Palavi (Government Saltern)	40,450
Total	565,576

The figures for Puttalam District are based on estimates of unweighed salt in manufacturers' kottus, and an increase of 25 to 30 per cent. may be expected on these estimated figures. Even with this expected increase the total output represents slightly less than one year's supply for the Island's consumption.

The usual selling price at the Government salt stores is Rs. 3 per cwt., except at the Government check stores at Haputale and Galle, where the salt is sold in limited quantities at Rs. 5.25 and Rs. 4 per cwt., respectively, to pay for cost of transport from the nearest centre of production. Salt is also sold to retail dealers and fish curers at a uniform price of Rs. 3.36 per cwt. *ex* Government stores at Batticaloa, Kalmunai, Akkarai pattu, and Pottuvil in the Eastern Province. As anticipated in last year's report, the stocks at Puttalam were found sufficient to meet the requirements of the Colombo dealers. All restrictions on the issue of salt from Puttalam to the Western Province and from Tondaimannar store (Northern Province) were withdrawn as from May 1; normal sales were resumed at all Government stores.

The total stocks in the Island at the end of 1923 amounted to 1,047,118 cwt., including the unweighed salt at Puttalam referred to above, or, roughly, about 1,100,000 cwt. This should be quite sufficient to meet the demands of the public for over 18 months, and in view of the increasing output at the Government salterns, it is hoped that there will be no necessity to import any more salt into the Island.

The re-organization of the Salt Department under the direction of the Salt Adviser was continued during 1923. Substantial progress was made towards completing the construction of the Government salterns—one at Elephant Pass (Jaffna District) and the other at Palavi (Puttalam District)—and in building additional quarters for officers. Until the beginning



GOVERNMENT SALTEN : ELEPHANT PASS.

of the salt season all the available labour was concentrated on levelling ponds, laying of trolley track, flood diversion bunds, improvements to storage platforms, and other construction work. The total yield at Elephant Pass for the year amounted to 112,100 cwt. At Palavi a "yala" harvest of 5,000 cwt. was secured in March, and a further quantity of 35,450 cwt. was scraped during the "maha" harvest, making a total of 40,450 cwt. for the year. This salt was all stored in open platforms in heaps of 5,000 cwt. each by cubic measurement. In July sales of salt from the Elephant Pass platform at Rs. 3 per cwt. were begun by the Salt Adviser, and 35,499 cwt. were sold up to December 31, a sum of Rs. 106,497 being realized by these sales. The total expenditure on these salterns, including capital works and manufacturing charges during the financial year 1922-23, was as follows :—

			Rs.	c.
Elephant Pass	..	..	107,847	81
Palavi	..	..	43,536	22
Total	..		151,384	3

MINERAL SURVEY.

Fieldwork was restricted during the first half of the year, the Government Mineralogist having been appointed to the charge of the Salt Department while the Salt Adviser was on leave. The investigations undertaken were (1) mapping of the boundaries of the sedimentary rocks in the north-west part of the Island; (2) the possibility of artesian water supplies in the Mannar District; (3) examination of water-supply areas for Tangalla town and the Palavi and Elephant Pass salterns.

Active prospecting for the source of the gem-stones found in the Ratnapura District was discontinued, but localities that seemed to show any promise were examined as information was received about them.

Inquiries continue to arrive for ilmenite sand in large quantities, and at prices which would probably leave a fair margin of profit if the operations were carried out on a large scale.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

The principal operations of the Survey Department for the period under review comprised block, application, topographical, irrigation, forests, and town surveys.

Block Surveys.—These consisted of 153,865 acres of new work, 563,723 acres of topographical inset surveys, and 3,592 acres of town surveys.

The following plans were issued during the year:—Block survey plans of 110 villages, containing 10,852 lots, covering an area of 87,751 acres. Two topographical preliminary plans, containing 741 lots, covering an area of 189,014 acres.

Surveys of 84 settlement and demarcation questions, together with the surveys of 372 Settlement Officer's applications, were completed and plans sent to the Settlement Officer.

Ninety-nine advance extract plans, consisting of 929 lots and covering an area of 3,004 acres, were issued in connection with the surveys of Crown requisitions and applications in the block survey areas.

The total area now covered by block survey is 2,592,201 acres, topographical inset surveys 1,968,983 acres.

Application Surveys.—Final village plans to the number of 109, for 88,366 acres in 3,671 lots, were issued to the Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents during the year. The total area covered by the final plans in the hands of the Government Agents and Assistant Government Agents now stands at 1,596,122 acres, contained in 56,202 lots on 2,791 final plans.

Preliminary plans to the number of 1,360, for 19,335 acres in 6,485 lots, were forwarded to the Government Agents, Assistant Government Agents, and the Settlement Officer.

Supplementary surveys to the number of 593, consisting of 2,614 lots covering 10,417 acres, were made and marked in final village plans and preliminary plans already issued.

Applications totalling 345, covering 8,761 acres, were surveyed for the increased production of foodstuffs on permits free of rent for three years.

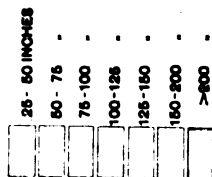
Applications to the number of 806, covering 2,467 acres, were surveyed for paddy; 77 applications, covering 1,497 acres, for tea; 20 applications, covering 336 acres, for rubber; 451 applications, covering 1,975 acres, for coconuts; 10 applications, covering 194 acres, for rubber and coconuts; 660 applications, covering 2,665 acres, for native cultivations; and 314 applications, covering 509 acres, for building purposes. There has been an increased demand for land during the year, particularly in the Southern, Uva, and North-Central Provinces.

Numerous surveys have been carried out for acquisition in connection with important public purposes, and 163 acquisition preliminary plans for 1,161 acres in 1,159 lots were forwarded, including lands required for the Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Badulla Railway Extensions.

Topographical Surveys.—The area covered up to date by contour surveys is 21,789 square miles, of which 8,887 square

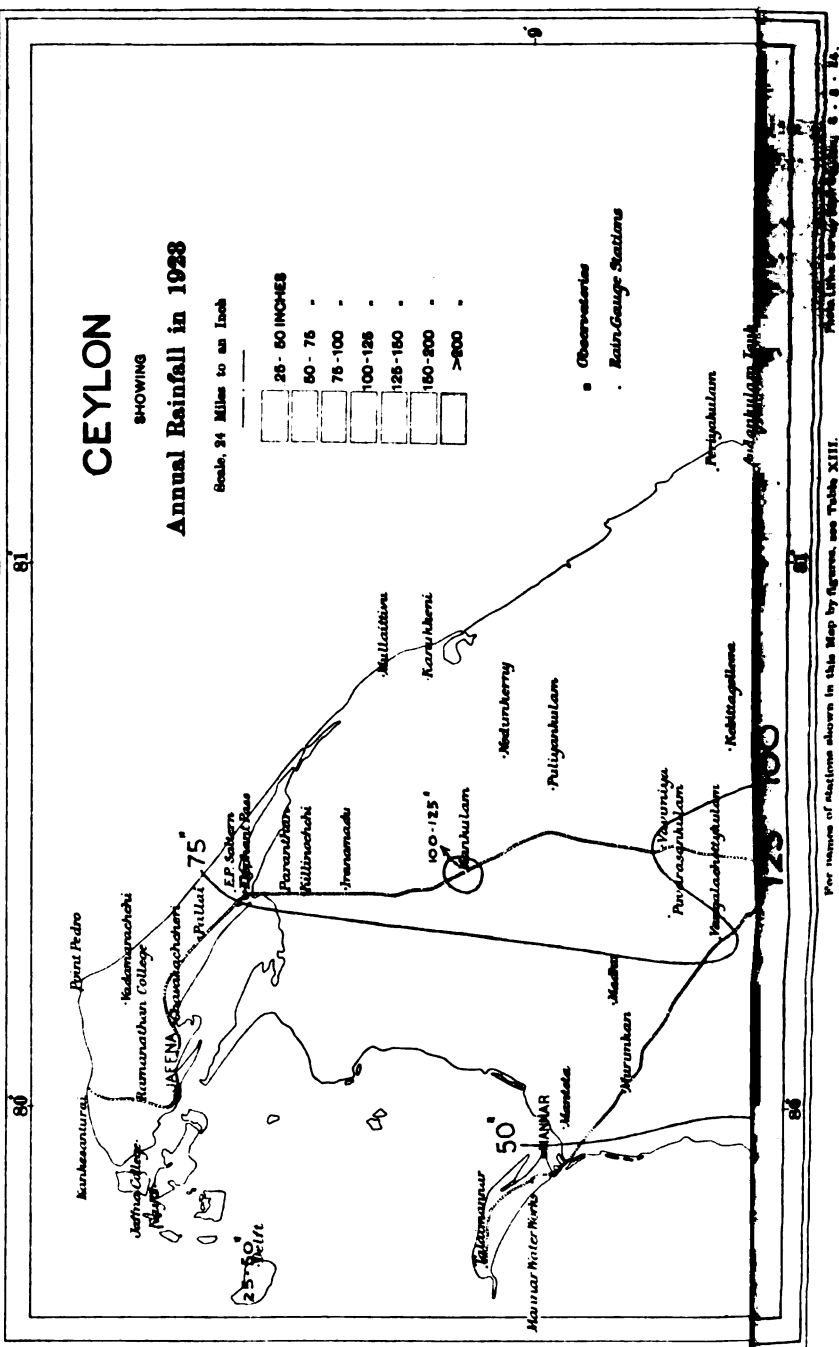
SHOWING

Scale, 24 Miles to an Inch



Observations

Rain-Gauge Stations



For names of stations shown in this Map by figures, see Table XIII.

8 : 1 : 14.

miles were completed during 1923. The uncountoured area of Ceylon amounts to 3,543 square miles, and this will be surveyed in 1924.

Irrigation and Forest Surveys.—Large forest reserves and irrigation surveys are in hand, but are not completed. The total area now covered by forest reserve surveys is 587,276 acres and irrigation surveys 38,765 acres, exclusive of incomplete plans.

Town Surveys.—New town plans were issued during the year for the northern portion of Colombo town, the one-chain area of Anuradhapura town, the remainder (four divisions) of Trincomalee town, and the centre portion of Batticaloa town.

The total area of town survey work amounts to 17,882 acres.

METEOROLOGY.

General Remarks.—There is a marked variation in climate among the different parts of Ceylon. In the low-country, with a mean temperature of 80° F., a noticeable feature is the small range of both temperature and pressure. There is, however, wide divergence between the moist conditions in the south-west of the Island, where the average annual rainfall varies from 100 to over 200 inches, and the dry zone areas of the north, north-west, and south-east.

Altitudes up to 8,000 feet occur inland, and there the temperature is cooler, and shows a more extensive range. There is a corresponding change in vegetation, and the conditions are altogether more akin to those in the temperate zone.

Rainfall.—The year was one of exceptionally heavy rainfall. This was most noticeable during the south-west monsoon at the stations on the west and south-west sides of the Island. Carney estate (between Ratnapura and Adam's Peak) had again the distinction of the highest rainfall for the year, viz., 319·3 inches on 280 days, or 93·1 inches and 47 days above its own average. A group of stations in the Ambegamuwa district were not far behind, and include Blackwater 313·6 and Kenilworth 295·3 inches, while Watawala 288·1, Ingoya 282·9, and Kellie estate (Dolosbage) 271·8 inches are all noteworthy.

The exceptional activity of the south-west monsoon on the windward side was associated with exceptionally complete shielding, so far as rain was concerned, on the lee side, but, nevertheless, the rainfall totals for the year were in most cases above average on that side too, thanks to heavy rain in January and December. St. Martin's estate (Rangalla) had the highest total on the eastern side, namely, 209·4 inches, or 27·0 inches above its own average. At the other extreme Marichchukkadi still holds the record for the lowest annual average, namely, 34 inches. Its total this year was 46·3, which is slightly above

the totals at two other stations immediately south of it, namely, the Puttalam eastern saltern and Ponparippu resthouse, where the 1923 totals were 45·9 and 39·5, respectively. Colombo (Observatory), Kandy, and Nuwara Eliya recorded 95·4, 116·5, and 127·9 inches, respectively, which give excesses of 14·9, 32·7, and 34·8 inches above their respective averages. The longest drought occurred at Paranthan Railway Station, lasting for 191 days, March 15 to September 21. The longest wet period occurred at Labugama, lasting for 133 days, May 26 to October 5.

Temperature.—The station showing the highest mean shade temperature for the year was Trincomalee with 82·8° F., and the lowest Nuwara Eliya with 59·8° F. The figures for Colombo and Kandy were 80·5° F. and 76·5° F., respectively.

The highest shade temperature in air recorded during the year was 99·9° F. at Trincomalee on May 8. The highest record is 103·7° F. at Trincomalee on May 12, 1890. The lowest this year was 32·9° F. at Nuwara Eliya (6,000 feet above sea level) on February 17, at which station 27·1° F. was recorded in 1914.

The highest shade temperature at Colombo in 1923 was 92·5° F. on March 24, and the lowest 65·5° F. on February 7.

The mean daily range, *i.e.*, the difference between the mean of the maximum and the mean of the minimum, was the highest at Badulla 17·7° F., and the lowest at Galle 8·2° F. At Colombo and Kandy it was 12·2° F. and 15·0° F., respectively. The absolute range for the year, *i.e.*, the difference between the highest and the lowest readings actually recorded at any one station was greatest at Nuwara Eliya (45·7° F.) and lowest at Galle (20·2° F.)

V.—Agriculture.

TEA.

THE total exports of tea during 1923 amounted to 181,939,731 lb. of a value of Rs. 185,686,387, as against 171,807,581 lb. of a value of Rs. 146,036,443 during 1922. This increase over the previous year was brought about by the more favourable weather conditions. The early part of the year was dry in some districts, but the south-west monsoon rains began early in June, and were exceptionally heavy over the greater part of the “tea growing area” on the south-west side of the Island. These rains were continuous, and many tea estates registered record rainfalls during the year. The severity of the monsoon retarded field operations, and in some areas considerably handicapped plucking, but in others plucking was not seriously affected, and increased crops were secured. The tea of the Island is now

looking extremely vigorous on the whole as the result of liberal cultivation and manuring programmes, and yields are steadily increasing again. Tea cultivation at the present prices is yielding good profits, and estates are spending considerable sums upon the improvement of factories and on provision of improved housing accommodation for labourers. The quality of the teas produced has remained high, and a continuous good demand for Ceylon teas at high prices was a feature of the tea market during the year under review.

No serious outbreaks of pests or diseases occurred. Shot-hole Borer is less prevalent upon estates where good cultivation and liberal manuring has been practised, and the investigations of the Department of Agriculture have clearly demonstrated that this pest can be definitely controlled by applications of good quantities of manures—thereby ensuring satisfactory and vigorous growth. The termites attacking tea are becoming more noticeable, more especially the scavengers which follow attacks of branch canker. Some estates are conducting experiments in spraying for the control of this disease, and it is anticipated that this procedure may in time be recognized as a necessary regular estate practice, and that thereafter the effects of the scavenging termites will not be so noticeable. The termites affecting the living bush are being investigated, and experiments are being made with methods of control. A kind of “witches broom” disease has been under observation in small areas in several districts during the year, and its complete investigation is shortly to be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture. The question of soil erosion has also been considered during the year, and most estates are now endeavouring to minimize, as far as possible, the losses of soil which usually occur. Experimental trials with new types of green manures are being continued.

There was some extension of the area planted with tea during the year, but there was difficulty with supplies of tea seed. Owing to the wet year only poor crops of seed were secured, and the demand considerably exceeded the supply. Small growers have improved their tea gardens very considerably. They have paid more careful attention to cultivation and to weeding, and have planted up quite a number of new areas. In fact, the demand for small areas of land by small growers was very noticeable, especially in the Central Province.

RUBBER.

The exports of Ceylon-grown rubber amounted to 83,816,228 lb. of a value of Rs. 73,594,349, as against 104,595,278 lb. of a value of Rs. 56,970,218 in 1922. The output of rubber was

restricted throughout the year—a 60 per cent. output being allowed for three-quarters of the year and a 65 per cent. output for one-quarter. The result of restriction was an increase in values sufficient to make the industry profitable enough to provide funds for cultivation and manuring and to make provision for closer attention to the treatment of diseases. The standard of quality of the crêpe turned out during the year was high, but many consignments of sheet rubber were irregular and mildewed as the result of the excessively wet weather during the latter half of the year. This excess of rain seriously interfered with tapping, and it was not uncommon to find estates whose crops were considerably reduced in consequence.

In spite of the excessive rain bark diseases were not more common than usual. Most estates now take adequate precautions by means of disinfectants to prevent the occurrence of these diseases of the bark, but on the properties of small owners little is yet being done to control them. Pod disease and leaf fall was not more serious than in previous years. It was worse in the Ratnapura District, but less severe in the Kelani Valley and the Kalutara Districts. Investigations are being made in order to ascertain if this disease can be controlled or influenced to any extent by means of manuring. Brown bast has not become more prevalent, and it is expected that with restricted tapping this disease will gradually become reduced. It has been found that its prevalence depends on local conditions, some areas being more heavily affected than others.

Useful work has been done by the Rubber Research Scheme during the year in its investigations on the preservation of latex, the cause and prevention of rust on sheet rubber, the use of disinfectants against bark diseases, and the prevalence of brown bast, while the continued investigations of the Department of Agriculture into the questions of tapping and of the yields of individual trees are giving valuable results. It is evident that the yield of a rubber tree is an inherent character, and that a good yielder is always a good yielder provided it is healthy and in vigorous growth. A few experiments continue to be made in the budding of rubber, but only small areas have yet been planted out with budded rubber in Ceylon.

CACAO.

The exports of cacao were 60,904 cwt., as against 83,210 cwt. in 1922. The crop, following upon the record crop of the previous year, was a small one, and in some areas the autumn crop was a very poor one. This was consequent upon the excessive wet weather during the middle of the year. The crop did not set

well, and the quantity of diseased pods was in excess of normal. Prices ruled low during the year, and in the latter part of the year quality was affected upon some estates by reason of the wet weather. The Peradeniya Chocolate Company continued operations during the year and has expanded its business.

COCONUTS.

The exports of coconut products and their values during 1923 were as follows :—

				Value. Rs.
Coconuts, fresh	.. No.	15,693,670	..	1,338,533
Copra ..	.. Cwt.	1,015,465	..	18,123,143
Desiccated ..	.. Cwt.	818,793	..	22,716,338
Oil ..	.. Cwt.	480,543	..	13,935,486
Fibre, bristle	.. Cwt.	126,311	..	1,830,156
Fibre, mattress	.. Cwt.	232,771	..	558,673

The export in fresh nuts fell during the year. The largest number was exported to the United Kingdom, whilst Egypt took the second largest quantity. The copra exports were materially lower than in the previous year, as also were the exports of oil. Desiccated exports were in excess of the exports of the previous year, and there was a slight increase in the exports of fibre.

The coconut crop was, on the whole, a poor one in all districts, particularly during the early part of the year. This was the result of short rainfall during the previous year, but with the abundant rainfall of 1923 excellent crops during 1924 are anticipated. Prices were satisfactory throughout, and showed improvement in the latter part of the year. Pests and diseases continue to receive attention by the Department of Agriculture. The coconut caterpillar continues to be a serious pest in the Batticaloa District, and has been found to have become established in other localities in the North-Western and Western Provinces. The attention of growers has been directed to the pest, and an organized campaign against it will probably have to be undertaken at an early date. A small outbreak of black beetle and red weevil became noticeable in the Matara District, and special attention was given to it by inspecting officers of the Department of Agriculture and by the Revenue Officers. These pests have been brought under control, and another area in the same district is now being worked at. Continued attention is being given to the cultivation and manuring of coconuts, and there is an increasing demand for scientific information regarding this crop.

CARDAMOMS.

The exports for 1923 amounted to 2,788 cwt., as against 4,096 cwt. during the previous year. The season was a bad one, the excessive wet weather being unfavourable to the crop. The United Kingdom was the largest purchaser, the quantity being sent to British India being materially less than during the previous year. Prices were satisfactory, and the quality of the crop fairly good.

CINNAMON.

The exports of this product were as follows :—

			Cwt.
Cinnamon quills	..	..	32,587
Cinnamon chips	..	..	12,397

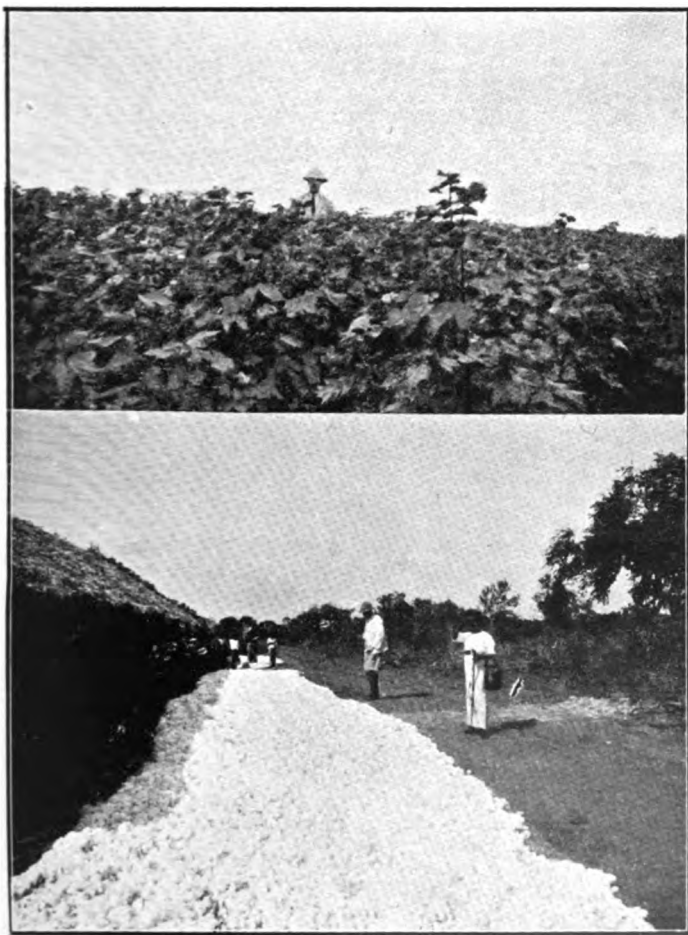
These exports were in excess of the exports during the previous year, and prices were, on the whole, satisfactory.

CITRONELLA.

The exports of citronella oil amounted to 1,121,271 lb. of a value of Rs. 2,130,283. These exports were in excess of those of the previous year, while the value improved considerably. Prices ruled high throughout the year, and this has resulted in fairly considerable amounts of new areas being planted up, particularly around Tangalla in the West Giruwa pattu of the Southern Province. Considerable difficulty was experienced by some exporters to America by reason of adulterations of the citronella by means of cheap alcohol. Several consignments were refused, and others were confiscated. The high price of the oil and the difficulty in detecting alcohol in certain quantities lead to the adulteration, and a chemical examination is now being made by shippers of all exports. This question of adulteration of citronella received the consideration of the Low-country Products Association and of the Board of Agriculture during the year.

FIBRES.

The experiments with cotton in the Hambantota District were a continued success, and good yields have also been secured from small plots in the Province of Uva and in other districts. A total of 600 acres is being cultivated in cotton for the 1923-24 season, and fully 1,500 acres would have been grown if the weather during the planting season had not been so wet as to



1. COTTON CROP AT HAMBANTOTA.

2. DRYING THE RAW COTTON.

prevent the burning off and preparation of the land. All the 1922-23 crop was bought locally by the Spinning and Weaving Mills of Colombo, and this same company is treating for the purchase of the 1923-24 crop. The quality of the cotton was good, and remunerative prices were obtained.

The exports of kapok amounted to 6,517 cwt. of a value of Rs. 429,084. There was a strong demand for this fibre at high prices, and the exports were slightly in excess of those of the previous year. Small areas were planted up with this fibre.

TOBACCO.

The season was not a very good one for tobacco, and prices were not high. An official visit was made to Travancore with a view to securing concessions of duty on the Jaffna crops. The Island was also visited during the year by representatives of the Imperial and British-American Tobacco Companies, and the various experiments with other than the local types of tobacco closely investigated. The White Burley type was favourably reported upon, and an extension of the area under this tobacco will take place during the 1923-24 season.

PAPAIN.

The exports during the year amounted to 342 cwt. of a value of Rs. 220,901. The estate-grown papain of Ceylon is of very good quality, and fetches high prices in the world's markets.

FOODSTUFFS.

The paddy crops were considerably below normal, and in some districts failed completely. Much damage to ripening yala crops was done by the excessive rains, and considerable areas of ripening paddy crops were flooded, had to be cut while under water, and carried to higher lands to dry before threshing could be undertaken. The quality of the grain was in consequence very poor, and much of it unsuitable for seed purposes. In the Batticaloa District much damage to crops was done by floods in December, while at Trincomalee and at Tissamaharama areas were devastated by the swarming caterpillar pest. Many of the competitions and demonstrations conducted during the past few years by the Department of Agriculture are beginning to bear fruit, and increasing areas of transplanted, weeded, and manured paddy are now being grown by village growers. Financial assistance through co-operative societies is also being continued.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Thirty-one new societies were registered during the year, and the total of societies now number 227. The paid-up share capital of working societies at the end of the co-operative year on April 30, 1923, was Rs. 188,689·50, as against Rs. 150,355 in the previous year; and the Reserve Fund amounted to Rs. 32,038 against Rs. 25,057. The total number of members of these societies is now 23,052, and manure to the value of Rs. 26,42 was distributed to members during the year. These societies are making steady progress, and in some of them the increase in co-operation is steadily advancing. Training classes for secretaries and treasurers continue to be held at various centres throughout the Colony, and some improvement in the working of societies can be seen as the result of these classes.

GENERAL.

Meetings of the Board of Agriculture and of its various Committees have been held regularly. The amendment of plant pest and disease legislation has been before the Legislative Council, and consideration given to proposals for research schemes for the tea and for the coconut industries. The Experiment Station, Anuradhapura, continued its experiments with sisal hemp, and good work has been done at the Jaffna Experiment Station in connection with the question of growing fodder for cattle in the Northern Province.

INFECTIVE DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

Except for Colombo and the Western Province the health of stock was good. Rinderpest, which continued to a small extent from 1922, assumed during 1923 an epizootic form in Colombo town, and in a lesser degree in the Western Province during October, November, and December. Infection of the North-Western Province was seriously threatened by the spread of the disease from the Western Province, but this was fortunately prevented.

Altogether 429 cases of this disease occurred in the Western Province, outside Colombo, and of the beasts infected 316 died, 78 recovered, 23 were shot, and 12 remained under treatment at the end of the year.

In the North-Western Province 8 animals were infected, which 5 died and 3 were shot. In the Province of Sabaragamuwa there were 7 cases, of which 3 died, 2 recovered, and 2 were shot. All other Provinces remained free during the year.

In Colombo town, outside the Quarantine Station, there were 604 cases, of which 452 died and 152 recovered.

In the Quarantine Station, amongst cattle imported from India, 31 cases occurred: 13 died and 18 recovered. Of these, 28 cases were in January—a fresh importation from India.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.—This disease prevailed in all Provinces, especially the Western and Sabaragamuwa; only the Eastern Province remained free.

In all 8,955 cases occurred, of which 8,809 recovered, 111 died, 2 were shot, and 33 remained on hand at the close of the year.

In Colombo town there were 87 cases: 85 recovered and 2 died. In the Quarantine Station, Colombo, 22 cases occurred: 21 recovered and 1 died.

Anthrax.—Forty-three cases were reported: 27 in the Sabaragamuwa, 11 in the Central, and 5 in the North-Western Provinces. One case occurred in Colombo town. Amongst the sheep and goats imported from India, 193 cases occurred in the Quarantine Station, Colombo.

Rabies.—Fifty-seven suspected cases were examined by the Director of the Pasteur Institute, Colombo, of which 33 gave positive and 11 negative results. Thirteen were received unfit for examination. Twenty-two of the cases were from Colombo.

Three hundred and thirty-six persons underwent treatment at the Pasteur Institute, Colombo, during the year.

Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.—Twenty-nine cases were reported: 15 in Uva, 12 in Sabaragamuwa, and 2 in the Western Provinces.

Black Quarter (Quarter Ill).—Thirty-five cases were reported: 18 in the Central, 11 in Uva, and 6 in the Southern Provinces. Of these, 32 died and 3 recovered.

Piropasmosis (Bovine).—Ten cases were reported: 6 in the North-Central, 3 in Uva, and 1 in the Central Provinces.

Surra.—Nine cases were reported: all from the Eastern Province.

Tuberculosis (Bovine).—One case occurred in Province of Uva. Diagnosis was confirmed both by the Director of the Bacteriological Institute, Colombo, and the Government Veterinary Surgeon. The infected animal was destroyed.

Swine Disease.—Twenty-five young pigs, the property of one owner in the Western Province, died in November, probably from swine septicæmia. As the outbreak was unreported diagnosis is uncertain.

Equine Disease.—No epizootic during the year. Osteoporosis continues to be the chief cause of loss.

General.—Twenty-four cases of sarcoptic mange amongst buffaloes were reported from the Central Province. Diagnosis was confirmed by the British Museum authorities.

VI.—Public Works.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

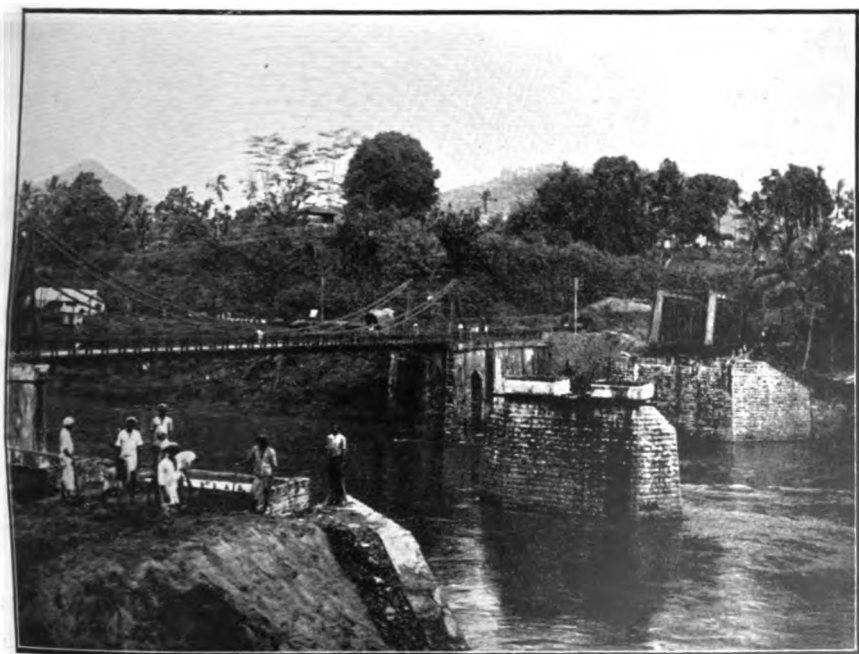
THE total expenditure of the Public Works Department has increased from Rs. 3,437,862 in 1896 to Rs. 11,380,248 in 1923, the latter figure showing an increase of Rs. 1,585,683 over that of 1922. The average annual expenditure during the past twenty-eight years has been Rs. 7,071,336.

Roads.—The total length of roads maintained during the year was 4,106 miles, of which 3,871 miles were cart roads and 235 miles bridle roads.

Amongst the more important works carried out or in course of construction may be mentioned the following :—

General.—Government bungalows and clerks' quarters, Colombo ; new Royal College, Colombo ; additions to Wireless Station, Welikada, and to the quarters of the officer in charge ; improvements to Chalmers Granaries ; additions to the Surveyor-General's Office, Colombo ; clerks' quarters, Nalanda ; junior clerks' quarters, Nuwara Eliya ; clerks' quarters, Hambantota ; new Customs buildings at Talaimannar ; Experimental Station and Agricultural School, Jaffna ; Training School, Kopay ; quarters for the Police Magistrate, Dandagamuwa ; junior clerks' quarters, Anuradhapura ; store for the Economic Botanist, Anuradhapura ; additions to Postmaster's quarters, Lunugala ; accommodation for the Pack Battery, Artillery Unit, Diyatalawa.

Medical Buildings.—Infectious diseases hospital, Neboda ; improvements to Civil Medical Stores ; new Lunatic Asylum, Angoda ; new Seamen's Ward, General Hospital ; improvements to Police Hospital and Lady Havelock and Lady Ridgeway Hospitals, Colombo ; additions to the Anti-tuberculosis Sanatorium at Kandana and the hospitals at Kalutara, Ingiriya, Kandy, and Dambulla ; quarters for the Medical Officer at Mulhalkele hospital ; additions to Dolosbage hospital ; improvements to Nawalapitiya hospital ; medical buildings at Elpitiya ; Udugama hospital ; additions to the hospitals at Deniyaya and Galle ; dispensary at Punakari ; quarters for the Medical Officer at Killinochchi hospital ; additions and improvements to Kurunegala hospital ; improvements to Madawachchi dispensary ; additions to Ratmale dispensary ; additions and improvements to Koslanda hospital ; quarters for steward, Kitulgala hospital ; improvements, Karawanella hospital ; additions to the hospitals at Balangoda, Eheliyagoda, and Kahawatta.



NEW BRIDGE ACROSS THE MAHAWELI-GANGA AT GAMPOLA : IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Police Buildings.—Police Training School, Bambalapitiya ; additions to police barracks, Jaffna.

Bridges.—Rebuilding Kosgama bridge, Colombo-Avissawella road ; Talatu-oya bridge ; strengthening Mahacoodagala bridge, Brookside-High Forest road ; renewing Pol-oya bridge, Bentota-Goiyapana road ; renewing bridges on the Punnalai and Mannar causeways and on the Kaitadi-Mankulam road ; rebuilding bridge on the 3rd mile, Central road to Mullaittivu (*new trace*) ; bridge over Kalu-ganga, Ratnapura ; Gampola bridge ; Elephant Pass bridge.

Progress was also made with the Colombo Lake Development project ; improvements to Nawalapitiya town ; Karaiur reclamation, Jaffna ; flood discharge channels, Jaffna peninsula ; coast protection works on the Bentota-Goiyapana road ; coast protection works at Duwa and Negombo

IRRIGATION.

Irrigation works in Ceylon are classified as—

- (a) Major works.
- (b) Village works.

Major works are all maintained and supervised by the staff of the Director of Irrigation from Government funds, and are liable to irrigation rates of some kind or another.

The financing of the construction of these works has been done originally by Government, but in the case of some works (which are termed “Aided Works”) the arrangement was that the actual cost of construction should be repaid to Government by instalments over a series of years, and the maintenance rate for these works is assessed quinquennially. In the case of the other major works termed, “Perpetuity Rate Works,” the construction cost was unreservedly met by Government, and an irrigation rate in perpetuity imposed on the lands, which rate when imposed was intended to cover the cost of maintenance of the works and also repay something in the shape of interest on the construction costs.

Village works are in the charge of the Government Agents, who have a number of field staff officers of the Irrigation Department lent to them to assist them with the technical supervision ; the maintenance as regards earthwork and clearing jungle and silt, &c., is done on a sharing system by the landholders under each work and regulated by special village works rules. The maintenance of the masonry works of village works is done from a Government vote to the Director of Irrigation, which is distributed to the different Provinces, and the work carried out by the village tank staff (advised by the

Divisional Irrigation Engineers), unless the work is of considerable magnitude, when it would be done by the Director's staff.

The bunds of village works have in most cases been constructed by villagers themselves supervised by Government Agents' staff under different forms of permit, in many cases the people being allowed land under the works in proportion to the earthwork done; sluices (whether masonry or pipes) are provided from Government votes, and also masonry spills where they exist.

Landowners under village works pay no irrigation rates. Occasionally arrangements are made by agreement between Government and the proprietors by which a village work becomes a major work or *vice versâ*, but instances of this are not frequent.

Under the Irrigation Ordinance of 1917 the control of paddy cultivation under all classes of works is in the hands of Government Agents.

The total expenditure of the Department for the financial year 1922-23 was Rs. 1,205,938·34, as compared with Rs. 1,154,547·07 in the previous year.

The usual work of maintenance was carried out during the year, and amongst the more important works constructed or in course of construction the following may be mentioned :—

Walawe Left Bank Scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 920,618 and to irrigate 7,638 acres of land on the left bank of the Walawe-ganga in the Hambantota District, Southern Province. Work is now proceeding on the construction of the main storage tank, on the supply channel to it from the river, and on the necessary surveys for channels.

Unnichchai Scheme.—Construction of agricultural roads and distribution channels.

Chadayantalawa Tank.—Raising of right and left bank spills completed.

Batticaloa Lake Flood Bunding Scheme.—Further areas protected from salt-water floods.

Kanthalai Extension Scheme.—Construction of Per-aar regulator and channel work.

Allai Extension Scheme.—Construction of Velli-aar flood regulator and improvements to roads.

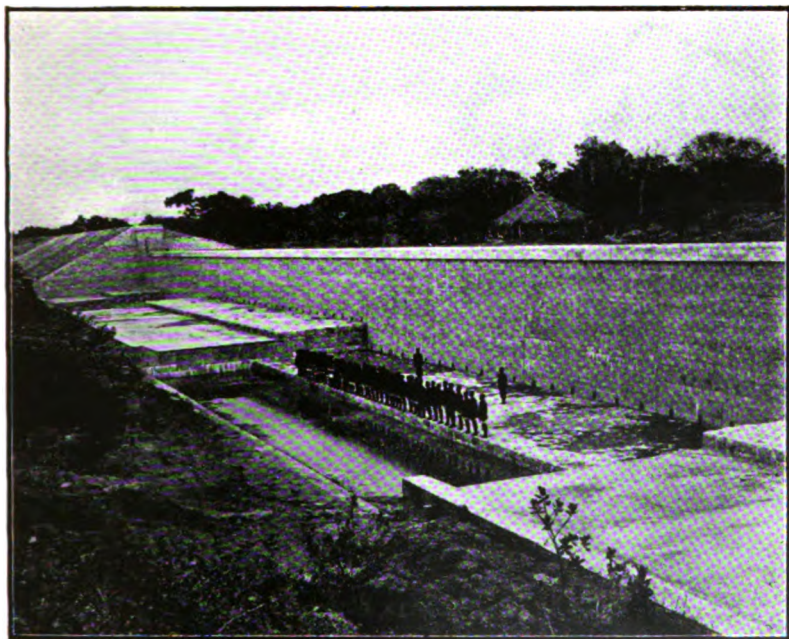
Pattipolai-arū Scheme.—Construction of Velatapitty channel.

Tabbowa.—Construction of spill continued, the right bank sluice partly built, and repairs to old embankment of tank.

Deduru-oya Scheme.—Improvements to inlet channel of Batalagoda tank.



TABBOWA SPILL, FROM RIGHT BANK. FEBRUARY, 1922.



TABBOWA SPILL, FROM LEFT BANK. DECEMBER, 1923.

Nachchaduwa.—Distribution channels and agricultural roads.

Kalawewa Tank.—Channel construction.

Karachchi Scheme.—The provision of the necessary roads of access and irrigation facilities to the irrigable area was proceeded with.

Village Works.—A sum of Rs. 46,848·14 was expended on maintenance and constructional work. An Irrigation Engineer was appointed in October to investigate the condition of village tanks in the catchment areas draining across the Northern and Mannar Railways.

Surveys and Investigations.—The principal surveys, investigations, or demarcations carried out were—Tabbowa right and left bank channels, Pattipolai-arua Scheme Velatapitty channel, Unnichchai left bank channel, Vadamaradchchi lagoon gaugings, Karachchi Scheme distribution channels and agricultural roads, Walawe Left Bank Scheme channels, Kongahawewa restoration, Weligama flood outlet gaugings, Bolgoda lake gaugings, Colombo flood prevention surveys, Kumbukkan Scheme extension of channels, Uma-ela channel.

The number of Crown irrigation works is 184, under which 145,093 acres are at present irrigated, an increase of 820 acres on previous year.

Many improvements have been carried out to village works; at present there are approximately 5,250 village tanks and elas in operation, and a further number of 1,680 village tanks are being restored.

Approximately 194,400 acres are being cultivated for paddy under village works.

Colombo Flood Protection Schemes.

For the protection of the low-lying land in the neighbourhood of Colombo two schemes have been devised, and for ease of reference have been termed the Colombo South Flood Scheme and the Colombo North Flood Scheme.

The Colombo South Scheme.

The preliminary investigations and designs for this scheme were completed during the early part of the year, and the construction of the scheme having been sanctioned by Government in October work was commenced at once. The estimated cost is Rs. 350,000.

This scheme will protect 8,000 acres (12 square miles) of land from the floods of the Kelani river. The protected area comprises the whole of the southern portion of Colombo city and the southern suburbs.

The possibility of such a scheme became apparent as a result of an investigation by the Department of the entire hydrographical area which drains into the Kelani river through Colombo and its suburbs. This survey was originally undertaken at the time of the food crisis of 1920 with the object of ascertaining if it was possible to effect any improvement in the conditions of the outlying rice-growing areas in the neighbourhood of Colombo which suffers severely from frequent floods.

The investigation brought to light the fact that the whole of the flooded area to the south of Colombo was in reality enclosed by high ridges, with the exception of two small gaps by means of which the river floods obtained access to the large enclosed area.

The accompanying map shows clearly the state of affairs, the area coloured pink being high ridge and the dotted black line enclosing the pink area being the crest of the ridges which form the boundary of the watershed draining through Colombo and its suburbs into the Kelani river. The flooded area is coloured blue, its outer contour being at the level of the flood of 1911 which is the highest flood of which definite gaugings are available (*i.e.*, since 1883). The two gaps by which Kelani floods have access to this area are shown on the map at A and B, the one at A being called the Kolonnawa gap and that at B being called the Dematagoda gap. It will also be observed that the area has two sea outlets at C and D.

The sea outlets at C and D were originally cut many years ago with the idea of mitigating the Kelani floods, but have produced no appreciable effect on flood level, since the water from the river comes in more rapidly through the gaps than it can escape by the sea outlets. Under the new scheme these sea outlets become of great value, since they provide, ready made, a separate means of draining the Colombo South area after it has been protected from Kelani floods.

The work now being carried out for the protection of this area may be divided into three parts—

- (i.) The complete closing of the Kolonnawa gap by a flood bank.
- (ii.) The construction of a canal lock in the Dematagoda gap and the closing of the gap by a flood bank.
- (iii.) The deviation of the Kalutara canal, which at present passes through the Kolonnawa gap, along the line E B F on the map, so that it will pass through the Dematagoda gap.

PLAN

SHEWING

FLOODED AREA IN COLOMBO, SOUTH

————— . —————

within Catchment above Flood Level

Do.....do.....below.....do.....

The reasons for the first two of these works are obvious, since they are the fundamental works required to prevent floods entering the area to be protected. The reason for diverting the canal traffic through the Dematagoda gap is that such a diversion is necessary for the subsequent construction of the scheme for the protection of Colombo North from Kelani floods.

The protected area, 8,000 acres in extent, may be divided into two classes of land—

- (i.) Land which is more than 3 feet above sea level, 5,000 acres in extent, which will become immediately available for building purposes or for park or garden land.
- (ii.) Land which is less than 3 feet above sea level, 3,000 acres in extent, most of which is at present used for growing grass or paddy, but part of which is permanent swamp. This area will require gradual improvement after it has been protected from floods. Such improvement will naturally take place in the gradual process of city development.

The rainfall catchment which drains into the protected area is 28 square miles in extent, and during times of low river drainage from it will still be allowed to flow into the Kelani by the Dematagoda canal. When, however, a rise in the river necessitates closing the canal lock drainage from this area will be discharged direct into the sea through the two sea outlets (C and D on the map). The fact that the main Kalutara canal, which is also the main drain of the Colombo South watershed, is dead flat with its bed level at about 4 feet below sea level throughout renders this complete reversal of the direction of flow possible.

It is anticipated that the works will be completed early in 1925, the final closure of the Kolonnawa gap being effected immediately after the north-east monsoon floods of 1924 are finished. It is not safe to endeavour to make this final closure at any other time of year owing to the grave risk of being caught by a flood in the middle of the operation.

The Colombo North Scheme.

The preliminary investigations and the preparation of the detailed plans for this scheme were completed during the year and were submitted for the consideration of Government.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Open Line, 1923.

The length of the line open for traffic on September 30, 1923, was 734 miles.

The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 24,597,590, or an increase of Rs. 2,674,353 as compared with the previous year.

The number of passengers conveyed was 11,109,251, as against 12,189,263 in the preceding year, or a decrease of 1,080,012.

Under season tickets there was an increase of 17,587 in number and Rs. 71,625 in receipts.

In foreign cooly traffic there was an increase of 26,922 coolies.

Parcels traffic showed a decrease of 55,808 in the number of parcels conveyed, but an increase of Rs. 111,250 in freight receipts.

The total tonnage of goods carried was 1,157,886 tons, or an increase of 25,760 tons over previous year, the principal increases and decreases are as follows :—

Increase.			Decrease.		
		Tons.			Tons.
Rice ..	..	1,236	Rubber ..	..	7,494
Tea ..	..	5,669	Cacao ..	..	1,387
Plumbago ..	..	2,051	Coconut produce ..	..	12,749
Bulk petroleum ..	..	1,143	Fruits and vegetables ..	..	3,512
Liquid fuel ..	..	1,391	Tea and rubber packing ..	..	1,265
Manure ..	..	20,952	Foreign traffic ..	..	8,449
Salt ..	..	6,472			
Sundry goods ..	..	20,367			

The total expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 16,108,248, as against Rs. 14,658,972 in the previous year.

The capital cost of the Railway, including additional accommodation and improvements up to September 30, 1923, was Rs. 156,269,364, as compared with Rs. 152,750,716 in 1922.

Colombo Stations Extensions.

This large work is approaching completion. The new Fort station additions, consisting of an arrival platform 70 feet wide and 1,200 feet long and a footbridge at the east end of the station, have been completed and handed over to the open line. Sanction during the year has been given for the construction of a similar bridge at the west end of the station, and indents have been sent home for the steelwork required. This new bridge will be connected with all platforms in the station, and will provide an additional exit to Norris road.

MAP OF CEYLON Shewing Railway Traces

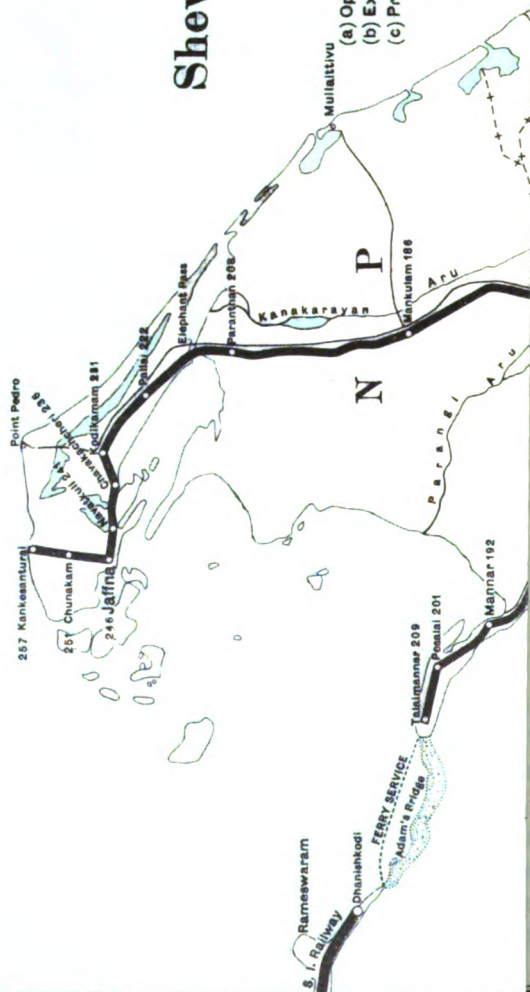
SCALE, 24 MILES TO AN INCH

—KEY—

- (a) Open lines shewn thus ———
- (b) Extensions in hand ———
- (c) Projected schemes of Railway Extensions ———

Note

Figures shewn before or after the names of Railway Stations represent mileage from Colombo. (Approximately)



Accommodation has been made on the new arrival platform for a 30 feet roadway for vehicles to meet all the principal incoming trains, with entrance and exit to and from the new McCallum road.

During the year the portion of McCallum road which is situated in "Captain's Garden" was under construction by the Railway Extension Department has been completed. The road is 80 feet wide exclusive of footpaths.

Work on remodelling the siding accommodation in the goods yard in Colombo is in hand. The whole remodelling of these yards will be completed during the coming year.

Work is also being carried out on the sorting sidings at Weeragoda. The swamp has been reclaimed and filled to a level above the highest flood. All that remains is to lay the sidings themselves, and this work will be taken in hand when the settlement in the large embankment has ceased.

The following works have already been completed under the Stations Extensions Scheme and handed over to traffic :—

- (a) Maradana station and sidings, &c., connected therewith.
- (b) New locomotive sheds, offices, &c., at Dematagoda.
- (c) New Maradana overbridge.
- (d) Duplication of main lines from Dematagoda to Slave Island, including the deviation across the lake (reclaimed) between Sutherland road and the Parsons road.
- (e) Extension of the narrow gauge from Maradana to the new Fort station.
- (f) Remodelling completely the Colombo goods yard and extensive alterations thereto, including three large new goods sheds each 750 feet in length, manure and plumbago sheds, &c., and sett paved cart areas and sidings connected with same.
- (g) New inward and outward narrow gauge goods yards sidings, road areas (sett paved), and transfer shed (broad to narrow gauge and *vice versa*).
- (h) New Railway Stores, &c.
- (i) Reclamation of 80 acres of swamp land and lake for Railway purposes.

The total estimate for the Stations Extensions complete is Rs. 9,693,543, out of which Rs. 9,537,253·19 was spent up to the end of 1923, leaving a balance of Rs. 156,289·81 to complete the work.

Badulla Railway Extension.

This line is an extension of the main line north of Bandarawela to Badulla. The line traverses hilly and very rough country, necessitating the construction of several high viaducts and five tunnels. Bandarawela is 4,013 feet above mean sea level and Badulla 2,226 feet. The ruling gradient is 1 in 44, and it was found necessary to adopt this gradient for the greater part of the distance. The length of the line is 21·08 miles. In four cases it was found necessary to adopt curves of 5 chains radius. The line is standard broad gauge (5 feet 6 inches). The rails utilized are 88 lb. per yard. All curves under 8·19 chains radius are checked, the check rails weighing 71 lb. per yard.

The work was started in November, 1913, near Bandarawela. During the war funds for the construction of the line were limited, and this, together with the difficulty in obtaining materials from home, accounts for the delay in completion of the work. Delay was also caused by the very unfortunate accident at Rossett on October 19, 1922, in which the Head Bridge Erector and two of his bridge staff lost their lives. Steelwork for two 80 feet main girders was damaged beyond repair, and girders to replace them were not received in the Colony till last June.

The portion of the line between Bandarawela and Ella was opened for traffic in 1918. From Ella to Demodera (11½ miles from Bandarawela) was opened on March 21, 1921.

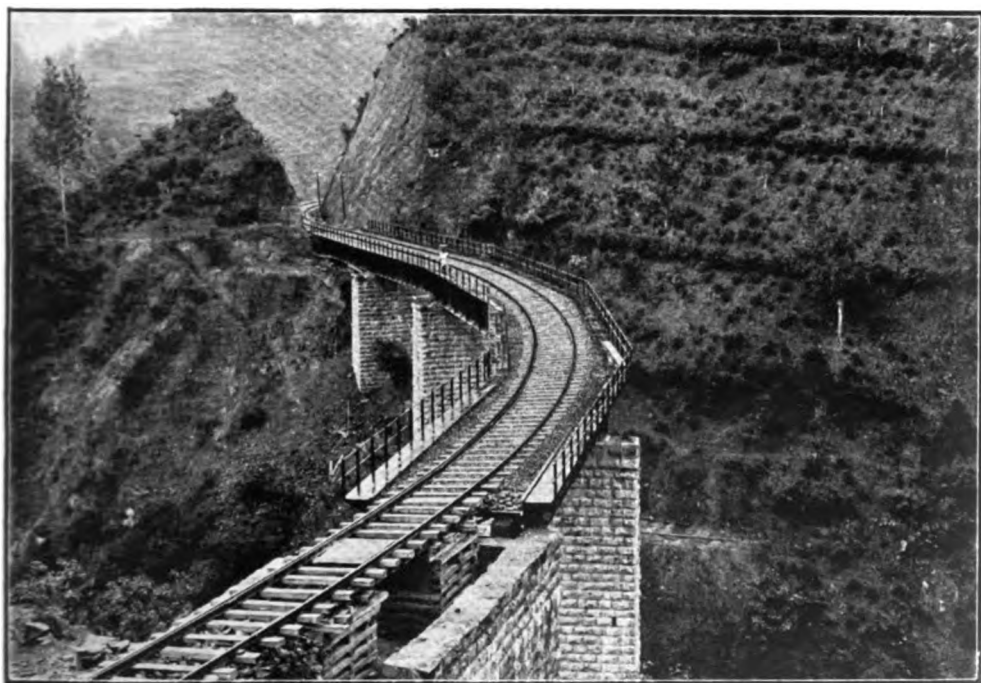
Nearly all work between Demodera and Badulla is completed, this section forming the heaviest part of the construction, and probably the heaviest section of railway in the whole system of the Ceylon Government Railway. It is hoped to open the full line about the end of February.* The rails in Badulla station are being laid, and the completion of this station, the strengthening of some of the high embankments, and the completion of the ballasting beyond Rossett are the only large works which remain to be done. Rossett viaduct, the highest in the Colony, is completed.

A relief model of the Demodera "loop" was made by the Surveyor-General and sent home to the British Empire Exhibition.

The line passes through valuable estates mostly planted in tea, and when completed will serve the large tea districts of Badulla, Passara, and Lunugala.

The station previously known as "Dikwella" has been re-named "Hali-ela."

* This was written in January, 1924. The Badulla Extension was actually opened by His Excellency the Governor on April 5.



ROSSETT VIADUCT, BADULLA RAILWAY EXTENSION.

The total estimate of the cost of construction is Rs. 9,759,401. The expenditure to the end of 1923 was Rs. 9,526,406·79, leaving a balance of Rs. 232,994·21 to complete. The work is being completed out of loan funds.

Main Line Duplication.

This work includes the doubling of the main line of railway from Ragama to Rambukkana, a length of 43 miles 24 chains. It also includes the improvement of the gradients on the existing line. All existing gradients steeper than 1 in 132 are being flattened to 1 in 132, the radius of all sharp curves increased to 20 chains, and "reverse curves" abolished.

New and up-to-date stations are being constructed at Mirigama and Ambepussa, and a very large new station and yard at Rambukkana, with new engine shed, coal stage, &c. Alawwa and Polgahawela stations are being extended and improved. The "subgrade" works have been pushed forward rapidly during the past year, and, with the exception of two bridges between Polgahawela and Rambukkana and the earthwork for Rambukkana station yard, the work is approaching completion as far as the duplicated line is concerned. Linking of the duplicated line is completed up to Mirigama station and in hand between Mirigama and Ambepussa and Alawwa and Polgahawela. Mirigama new station construction is in a forward state, and work is now in full swing at Alawwa, Polgahawela, Ambepussa, and Rambukkana stations. Steelwork for all the bridges has arrived in the Island, and the large bridge over the Maha-oya to carry the duplicated line is finished. Excepting for certain points and crossings all permanent way is in the Island. The duplicated tunnel 2 miles north of Mirigama station is completed and will shortly be put into use.

Double line working between Ganemulla and Gampaha was installed on August 26, 1923.

Between Gampaha and Veyangoda all main line traffic has been turned over the future "up" line, and the gradients on the old line are being lowered. An extra span of 60 feet is being added to the old bridge over the Attanagalla-ganga. This work is approaching completion. It is hoped that the double line working will be installed between these two stations about the end of February, 1924.

The total estimate for the work is Rs. 7,368,876, out of which Rs. 5,400,725·78 has been spent to the end of 1923, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,968,150·22 to complete the work.

Puttalam Railway Extension.

This is an extension of the Chilaw line north of Chilaw to Puttalam. The total length is 32 miles 69 chains, and the work was commenced in November, 1920 (application for the necessary land required). The line is built to the standard gauge (5 feet 6 inches), rails 80 lb. per yard being used with angle fish plates, six bolts to each pair of fish plates.

The line passes through very rich coconut lands and will serve the large salt industry of Puttalam.

The steepest gradient is 1 in 198.

All stations are interlocked.

The line necessitates heavy bridges for the first 12 miles of its length. These include the bridge over the Deduru-oya, 4 miles north of Chilaw, which consists of five spans of 150 feet, the longest continuous bridge constructed up to date in Ceylon. The foundations of this bridge are cast iron cylinders and, with the exception of two south abutment cylinders, all have been founded (twelve in all). The depth these cylinders were sunk varies from 50 to 55 feet below ground level. The superstructure is now being erected. On the date of completion of this bridge the opening of the railway depends, and every effort is being made to push the work forward. The valley of the Deduru-oya is, however, very feverish indeed, and the health of the bridge staff and labour has been considerably affected.

A temporary bridge, which can be used during normal floods, has been erected across this river. Rails and all permanent way material required for the line further north have been transported over this bridge, as well as over the temporary bridges crossing the Sengal and Battulu-oyas.

The line has been laid up to a point 1 mile south of Puttalam station, and linking should be complete in about two months' time.

Bangadeniya station, 6 miles north of Chilaw, and Battulu-oya station, $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles, are nearly complete. Work on all other stations is in hand.

Owing to scarcity of suitable ballast near this line gneiss stone metal ballast is being transported from the Railway Extension quarries at Ragama, an approximate average haul of 56 miles.

The total estimated cost of this line is Rs. 7,334,480, out of which Rs. 4,808,809·22 has been expended to date, leaving the sum of Rs. 2,525,670·78 to complete the work.

Heavy dredging has yet to be undertaken in the Puttalam lake so as to allow dhoneyes and other boats to reach a special siding to take the traffic from the Etalai and Kalpitiya districts.

Batticaloa and Trincomalee Light Railways.

The combined length of these lines is $182\frac{1}{2}$ miles. They are built to the 5 feet 6 inches gauge, $46\frac{1}{4}$ lb. per yard rails being used.

The line necessitates heavy bridging, especially in the Kala-oya, Mahaweli-ganga, and Valaichchenai districts.

The bridge crossing the Kala-oya (eight spans of 26 feet and two spans of 16 feet) is finished.

In order to push the work forward beyond the Mahaweli-ganga towards Batticaloa, and to assist in the erection of the main bridge over the Mahaweli-ganga, a temporary bridge constructed to carry a train has been built across the main stream of the river. This temporary timber bridge consists of seventy-eight spans of 12 feet, and has just been completed. The main permanent bridge over this river will consist of six spans of 150 feet.

The valley of the Mahaweli-ganga is exactly 3 miles wide (area inundated) in heavy floods. In addition to the six spans of 150 feet the plan provides for the following flood outlets :—

One span of 150 feet.

Sixty-three spans of 30 feet at different mileages in the valley.

Four spans of 12 feet.

The foundations of the permanent bridge are cylinders, and a start has been made in sinking these.

The bridge over the Valaichchenai estuary will consist five spans of 150 feet founded on cylinders. Ten out of the 12 cylinders have been sunk.

This bridge as well as the bridge over the Mahaweli-ganga is designed to take both road and railway.

In addition to these large bridges several smaller waterways and valleys have to be crossed, the most important being the Horavilla-oya, Habarana-oya, Gal-oya, Alut-oya, Palampattiaru, Minneriya-oya. All these bridges are in hand, and most of them approaching completion.

The land traversed is, generally speaking, flat, but heavy work is encountered near Maho, Habarana, Minneriya hills, and near Trincomalee, the line having to cross ridges of hills running generally speaking north and south.

The heaviest gradient on the line is 1 in 60, and the sharpest curve 20 chains in radius.

Sleepers for the construction of the line, which will number close on 400,000, are being supplied locally, except for 60,000 jarrah sleepers which have been imported during the year from Australia at a cost of Rs. 8·25 each. Local sleepers are hand sawn and mill sawn. Four well-equipped mills having been put up for the purpose.

The country traversed, particularly near Gal-oya (the junction of the Batticaloa and Trincomalee lines), is very feverish, especially from November to April. It is also subject to droughts from May to the end of September. During the former months the labour force is greatly depleted by sickness.

To deal with this, fully-equipped hospitals have been erected at Maho, Kantalai, Topawewa, and Valaichchenai, and dispensaries at railheads, Habarana, Mahaweli-ganga, and Gal-oya.

All material for bridges and permanent way is in the Island.

Work is being pushed forward as fast as circumstances will allow, and considering the great difficulties encountered the progress may be considered as fair. It must be remembered that these lines run for the most part through feverish and deserted jungles.

The total estimated cost of the work is Rs. 17,627,973, out of which Rs. 13,916,240·91 was spent up to end of 1923, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,711,732·09 to complete.

Kalladi Bridge.

The construction of this bridge (to consist of six spans of 150 feet and to carry a road and railway over the Batticaloa lake) was sanctioned during the year.

Indents were dispatched for cast iron cylinders, and steelwork superstructure was indented for, but no steelwork has yet been received in the Island. The total estimated cost of the bridge is Rs. 1,096,971, out of which Rs. 400,000 has been voted for the present year to cover the cost of the steelwork indented for, and which may arrive in the Island during the year.

This bridge when completed will connect the populous area south of Batticaloa with Batticaloa town.

Kalmunai Extension Survey.

A vote of Rs. 9,000 was sanctioned to cover the cost of the survey of the proposed railway from Batticaloa to Kalmunai and Nintavur. The proposed length of this line is 26 miles, and the country to be traversed very densely populated. The line would be carried over the Batticaloa lake on the Kalladi bridge mentioned in the last paragraph of this report.

Harbour Rail Extension.

This scheme provides for making a rail connection from the main line at Urugodawatta direct to the harbour in the vicinity of the Graving Dock, connecting the railway sidings south of the

"Lake to Harbour Canal" with the lines to the north, remodeling the Wharf station, and abolishing the existing line connecting between the Wharf and the Fort station *via* Galle Face. It also provides for the new exchange sidings for the exchange of wagons between the Ceylon Government Railway and the premises of the Colombo Port Commission.

All works in connection with this large undertaking were completed, excepting the road approaches to the Prince of Wales avenue and Bloemendahl road bridges. These approaches are well in hand.

The whole work, excepting the "Kandy Loop," was handed over to the Traffic Department, Ceylon Government Railway, and to the Port authorities for traffic on September 1, 1923.

The "Kandy Loop" was completed towards the end of the year.

Matara-Tangalla and Hambantota Extension.

During the past year the estimate of cost of this proposed extension was completed, and a detailed estimate and report on the line was forwarded to Government.

VII.—Excise.

FROM October, 1923, the Matara Circle was amalgamated with the Galle Circle and placed in charge of the Assistant Superintendent of Excise, Galle.

CONTRACT SUPPLY SYSTEM.

This system has been explained in previous reports. Government manufactures part of the arrack at its own distillery at Kalutara, and purchases the rest by contract from private distillers. On this arrack the renter pays cost price, duty, and a lump sum as rent per gallon, and retails the arrack in his tavern. His profits really consist of a commission on sales, and the Excise policy is not to accept too high a tender, as in order to increase this commission the renter is tempted to indulge in short measure, dilution, and other illicit practices. This system has been tried in five Provinces: in 1920-21 in the Northern Province, in 1921-22 in Northern and Uva Provinces, 1922-23 in Central Province, and 1923-24 in Western and Sabaragamuwa Provinces.

Revenue from these Provinces is shown as follows :—

Province or District.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	October to December, 1923.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Northern Province	404,665 ..	375,892 ..	535,195 ..	486,582 ..	157,088
Province of Uva ..	313,496 ..	289,750 ..	204,794 ..	249,976 ..	97,487
Central Province ..	1,648,800 ..	1,599,060 ..	1,178 880 ..	1,478,320 ..	459 950
Western Province	3,119,604 ..	3 456,487 ..	3,107,359 ..	3 245,980 ..	753,504
Province of Sabaragamuwa	700,482 ..	880,796 ..	612 248 ..	371,077 ..	166,150

TOTAL REVENUE FROM ARRACK, &C.

The total revenue from arrack during the year under review amounted to Rs. 7,300,064 :—

In 1920-21 arrack revenue amounted to Rs. 8,313,022.

In 1921-22 arrack revenue amounted to Rs. 7,418,062.

In 1922-23 arrack revenue amounted to Rs. 7,300,064.

Toddy revenue for the same period amounted to—

	Rs.	c.
1920-21	1,952,330	23
1921-22	1,801,879	75
1922-23	1,853,546	0

The number of taverns during the same period was—

	Arrack.	Toddy.
1920-21	521	590
1921-22	452	474
1922-23	379	395

This indicates a reduction in two years by 27 per cent. in the arrack taverns and 33 per cent. in the case of toddy taverns. The reduction of arrack revenue has been 2 per cent., but toddy shows an increase of 3 per cent. on 1922.

The cost price of arrack remained between Rs. 180 to Rs. 200 at the beginning of the year, and went down to between Rs. 140 to Rs. 160 in the latter part of the year.

The following comparative figures of consumption of arrack and toddy are recorded :—

(a) For the calendar year—

	Arrack. Gallons.	Toddy. Gallons.
1921	848,376	4,443,800
1922	807,387	4,291,012
1923	726,172	4,143,801

(b) For the rent year—

1920-21	888,918	4,678,282
1921-22	834,225	4,278,586
1922-23	716,445	4,069,516

FOREIGN LIQUOR.

Sales of foreign liquor show an increase everywhere. This is no doubt due to the reduced strength of arrack and to the fact that rival tradesmen have made capital of this reduction to push the sale of foreign liquor. The demand for cheap gin and brandies increased proportionately, but the indications are that their advantage will only be temporary.

Licensed distilleries number 93, as against 114 in 1922 and 122 in 1921. The number of stills working were 117 in 1923, 150 in 1922, and 170 in 1921. The output from these stills varied correspondingly thus :—

					Gallons.
1921	..	..	..	..	957,131
1922	..	..	..	..	691,749
1923	..	..	..	..	531,174

The revenue derived from foreign liquor during the following period was stable and shows a slight increase :—

					Rs.	c.
1920-21	..	..	..	..	95,598	51
1921-22	..	..	..	..	96,751	1
1922-23	..	..	..	..	97,099	25
1923-24	..	..	..	..	110,971	51

The Government Distillery at Kalutara North continued to supply arrack for the Northern Province and Uva rents, but arrack for the Central, Western, and Sabaragamuwa Provinces was purchased from contractors, who tendered to supply the arrack to Government at rates varying from Re. 1·18 to Re. 1·75 per gallon. Two additional stores were acquired by Government at Kalutara. The output of the Government Distillery in the year was 60,069·9 proof gallons or 85,814·1 gallons at 30 degrees under proof at a cost of Re. 1·48 per gallon. The profit realized was Rs. 173,298·04 in 1923, Rs. 170,258·41 in 1922.

Thirty-seven private warehouses or godowns were licensed in 1923, as against 39 in 1922 and 48 in 1921.

The numerous small distilleries continued to be a source of illicit supply, but they were closed down from December, 1923. They will be replaced by larger distilleries on the model of the Government Distillery at Kalutara.

EXCISE LAW, TAVERN CLOSURE, &c.

Excise Notification No. 135 was passed in July, 1923, regulating the control of the importation of *Cannabis indica* (Indian hemp, or “ganja”) and limiting the issue of licenses to qualified doctors. Under this regulation the drug is stocked and distributed by the Principal Civil Medical Officer.

Besides those taverns closed by local option, many taverns were closed on the advice of the Excise Department from time to time and by the Advisory Boards. By these agencies the number of taverns was reduced from 989 in 1913-14 rent period to 321 in the 1923-24 period. At the beginning of the present rent period the following closures were effected :—

	Arrack Taverns.	Toddy Taverns.
Colombo Revenue District ..	12	13
Galle ..	5	2
Matara ..	13	22

These large closures, however, have not been marked by a proportionate drop in consumption. Arrack taverns have been reduced 18 per cent., toddy taverns 19 per cent. Consumption of toddy has remained almost unaffected, but arrack consumption has dropped 11 per cent.

The following figures show the consumption of arrack and toddy and the imports of foreign liquor for the last five years :—

Year.	Number of Gallons of Foreign Liquor Imported.		Number of Gallons Consumed.			
			Arrack.	Toddy.		
1919	..	54,057	..	1,029,269	..	4,570,395
1920	..	135,588	..	1,019,370	..	4,752,605
1921	..	101,598	..	848,376	..	4,443,800
1922	..	120,563	..	807,387	..	4,291,012
1923	..	150,415	..	726,172	..	4,143,801

The fall in the consumption of country liquor can be attributed partly to trade depression, to enhanced cost of living, and partly to temperance.

Government has from time to time taken other measures favourable to temperance, for instance, by restricting removal of arrack to two bottles and removal of toddy to one gallon, by enhancing the duty on foreign liquor, increasing minimum and maximum selling price of arrack, reducing the strength of arrack, and prohibiting off sales in certain areas. Consumption and distribution will be further controlled by the establishment of six central distilleries in place of the two hundred odd small stills which existed formerly, from which the distillery area used to be flooded with arrack during and at the end of each distilling season. Where toddy taverns have been closed, tapping in these tavern areas for other taverns is as a rule not allowed.

Off sales prohibition cannot be said to have produced satisfactory results. It caused great dissatisfaction in Kurunegala and Chilaw Districts, it was rejected in Ratnapura, and in Jaffna it is only to a small extent effective.

VIII.—Post and Telegraphs.

ON December 31, 1923, 607 offices were open for the transaction of postal business; of these, 175 (excluding the Central Telegraph Office) were offices dealing with all classes of postal business, viz., mail and parcel work, registration and insurance of postal articles, money order, postal order, and savings bank work, and telegraph business; at 28 offices all such business, except telegraph work, was transacted.

At 19 sub-offices mail, parcel, registration, and postal order work only was transacted, while at 344 village receiving offices mail work only was conducted; there were also 40 railway receiving offices.

MAIL SERVICES.

A.—*Foreign.*

A regular weekly mail service between Ceylon and the United Kingdom was maintained during 1923, and 9,156 bags of correspondence and 5,465 bags of parcels arrived from London; while 2,869 bags of correspondence and 1,807 bags of parcels were dispatched to London.

Fifty-three letter mails were received from London; of these, 40 were carried by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company—of which, 26 were landed at Bombay and brought overland to Colombo and 14 were brought by sea to Colombo—and 13 were carried by vessels of the Orient line.

In the homeward direction 92 mails were dispatched to Europe by vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental (52 mails), Orient (13), Messageries Maritimes (13), Bibby (1), Nippon Yusen Kaisha (1), Rotterdam Lloyd (5), and Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland (7), lines. The average time occupied in transit was 17 to 19 days. The running of the ordinary trains in place of the special Madras-Bombay mail trains stopped on May 1, 1922, continued during 1923, and Tuesday continued to be the regular day of closing the European mail. This change entailed considerable inconvenience on the mercantile community on occasions when the outward mail did not arrive until Tuesday morning. A step taken to minimize the inconvenience was the extension of the hours up to which letters were received for dispatch on payment of late fees: 6 cents up to 5 P.M., 10 cents up to 6 P.M., and 15 cents up to the time the train left Fort station at 7.35 P.M. But with the starting time put back to 6.55 P.M., the late fee paid letters were received for dispatch with 6 cents up to 5 P.M., 10 cents up to 6 P.M., and 15 cents up to 6.30 P.M.

Between Australia and Ceylon a regular monthly mail service was maintained, both by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam

Navigation Company and the Orient Company ; and the vessels of the Commonwealth line provided a supplementary service, 13 mails being dispatched for Australia by this means during the year.

Regular and frequent services to the Straits Settlements and the Far East were available by the vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Messageries Maritimes Company, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Rotterdam Lloyd, Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland, and Compania Transatlantica lines. The British India Steam Navigation Company's service between Negapatam and the Straits, of which use was also made by Ceylon, continued in 1923 to be a fortnightly one.

The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers carried mails from Ceylon to Mauritius eight times during the year at irregular intervals, the longest interval being between July 13 and October 9 ; and the Natal direct, Indian African, and Osaka Shosen Kaisha lines and British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers from Bombay carried 43 mails from Ceylon to South Africa.

Vessels of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha line carried direct mails to the Argentine *viâ* South Africa.

With India the daily service in each direction by train, with ferryboat plying between Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi, was maintained, except when interrupted by washaways. Such an interruption lasted from February 1 to March 15, when a day train service between Colombo and Talaimannar took the place of the night service.

B.—Inland Mails.

Inland mails are carried generally by the Ceylon Government Railway, and from Railway stations by private contract motor mail services, bullock coach, or by runner services.

The principal motor mail services are—

	Miles.
Demodera to Batticaloa	111
Anuradhapura to Trincomalee	67
Matara to Hambantota	52
Haputale to Moneragala	47
Matara to Deniyaya	37
Puttalam to Chilaw	32
Mullaivittivu to Mankulam	30
Jaffna to Point Pedro	20
Jaffna to Kayts	18
Kodikamam to Point Pedro	11
Kurunegala to Madampe	40
Hatton Bogawantalawa to Maskeliya	20
Matale to Dambulla	28
Talawakele to Agradipatna	14
Opanake to Balangoda	9
Campola to Ramboda	20
Panadura to Horana	12
Kiriella to Ratnapura	12

The inland mail services worked satisfactorily throughout the year, save when interrupted for short periods by floods and washaways.

MAIL STATISTICS.

The total number of postal articles, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the post in 1923 is estimated at $60\frac{3}{4}$ million, about 3 million more than in 1922. The increase was principally in inland correspondence, which comprised over $80\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the total. Correspondence exchanged with India formed nearly $12\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the total, with the United Kingdom about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and with other countries nearly 3 per cent.

Letters received from the United Kingdom showed an increase of 23 per cent. in number, but there was a considerable falling off in post cards, owing to the increase in the postage on these under the Madrid Convention. Printed matter, samples, &c., from the United Kingdom showed an increase of over 36 per cent., compared with 1922.

The total number of parcels dealt with was 921,150, an increase of some nearly 50,000 over the 1922 total. Of these, 50,024 were received from the United Kingdom, 183,960 from India, and 22,590 from other countries. 9,028 parcels were received under the Cash on Delivery service from the United Kingdom, an increase of 4,392 over the last year's total.

POSTAGE RATES.

The rates for foreign postage fixed under the Madrid Convention continued in operation, the rate on letters to British Possessions being 12 cents for the first oz. and 10 cents for each subsequent oz., while the postage on post cards was 10 cents; to foreign countries the corresponding rates were 20 cents, 10 cents, and 12 cents. On printed matter the initial rate of 4 cents per 2 oz. was uniform, with minima of 8 cents on samples and 20 cents on business papers.

The inland rates of postage and the rates to India remained unchanged—initial letter rate 6 cents per 4 oz., post card rate 3 cents, and printed matter 3 cents for 2 oz.

The total value of stamps sold by the Department in 1923 was Rs. 6,640,600.

The inland telegraph rate, 40 cents for the first ten words, including address, and 5 cents for each additional two words, remained unchanged, as did the rates on telegrams to India, for first twelve words, ordinary Re. 1, express Rs. 2, with 10 and 15 cents, respectively, for each additional word.

MONEY AND POSTAL ORDERS.

The total value of money orders handled in 1923 was Rs. 40,567,757, of which inland orders amounted to Rs. 28,387,526; of the balance the business with India formed the largest percentage, orders issued payable in India totalling over 9½ million rupees—half a million more than in 1922—a fair proportion of which was due to savings remitted by Indian immigrant coolies.

The business in money orders between Ceylon and the United Kingdom was small—8,397 orders of a total value of Rs. 351,606.

There was an increase in the value of local postal orders issued, Rs. 771,584, compared with Rs. 666,509 in 1922, and a small increase in the number of British postal orders paid, which, however, only amounted to £10,407.

Considerable use was made of the telegraph money order service between Ceylon and India, remittances totalling Rs. 3,548,673 being so sent to India and Rs. 582,434 drawn by Indian remitters on Ceylon. Comparatively little use, however, was made of the services between Ceylon and the United Kingdom (280 telegraph orders were sent to the United Kingdom and 72 received therefrom) and Ceylon and the Federated Malay States (13 orders only being sent and 701 orders received), owing probably to the higher telegraph costs.

The revenue from money order commission reached Rs. 434,258.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The business of the bank transacted at 203 offices continued to expand during 1923, the deposits, which amounted to Rs. 5,102,415, exceeding withdrawals during the year by Rs. 991,741.

On December 31, 1923, the total to the credit of depositors was Rs. 6,701,840.

The rate of interest continued to be 2·40 per cent.—2 cents per month for each complete Rs. 10.

Any sums not less than 25 cents are accepted for deposits up to nett maxima of Rs. 750 per annum and an interest bearing total of Rs. 3,000.

Deposits may be made by means of stamped slips. One withdrawal on demand of a sum not exceeding Rs. 10 is allowed in any one week.

TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

All the important towns in the Island are served by the Government telegraph system.

177 postal telegraph offices were open for public traffic on December 31, 1923, besides several railway telegraph offices. Five new telegraph offices were opened during the year.

There are two telegraph circuits between Ceylon and India, on one of which the Baudot printing machine is employed in duplex working.

Ceylon is connected with the West by direct cables of the Eastern Telegraph Company to Aden and the Seychelles, and to the East with Singapore.

The Government wireless station at Colombo of 5-kilowatt power has a normal daylight range of about 400 miles, and is open to traffic of all kinds.

The total number of telegrams handled in 1923 was a little over $1\frac{3}{4}$ million messages, some 228,000 more than in 1922. The average time taken in transmission of an inland telegram was 15 minutes.

The total number of messages dispatched to India, 190,190, showed a slight decrease of some 4,628, and the number received from India, 156,128, was some 10,434 more than in 1922.

89,188 private cable messages were dispatched to and 87,770 received from other countries.

The Colombo Wireless Station dealt with 8,585 messages containing 104,908 words during the year.

The revenue from telegrams was, roughly, Rs. 816,341, and the value of free telegraphic services rendered to other Departments was estimated at Rs. 60,060.

THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Speaking generally, the larger towns are served by Government exchanges (46 in number), and rural areas by private licensed local exchanges, linked together by Government junction and trunk lines.

The principal Government exchange is at Colombo, which is served by underground cables as far as possible. There were 2,301 subscribers to this on December 31, 1923, and 6 applications for service were outstanding.

Other large Government exchanges are at Kandy (153 subscribers), Nuwara Eliya (122), Galle (79), Kurunegala (57), Negombo (45), Kalutara (40), Panadure (38), and Matale (31).

No charge for installation is made for connection to Government exchanges, and a flat rate of subscription is charged for an unlimited service within the prescribed hours.

The minimum subscriptions, applicable to premises within 2 miles of the exchange, are Rs. 180 per annum for business and Rs. 120 for residential connections in the larger towns.

At the Colombo exchange the service is continuous throughout the year, and it is estimated that a little over 13 million calls were dealt with in Ceylon in 1923—1 million more than in 1922. The figure furnished in 1922 represented the traffic for the whole Island.

The average speed of answer during the day in Colombo was 4.8 seconds, and 95.8 per cent. of calls were answered within 10 seconds.

There were 83 Government call offices in use during the year, and the number of telephone stations reached 5,765. The estimated number of trunk line calls was 243,960 and junction line calls 182,412, an increase on the 1922 figures. The trunk and junction line fees are fixed on a 1-cent-per-mile basis. Receipts from telephones totalled Rs. 619,228 in 1923, while the value of telephone services rendered free to other Government Departments was estimated at Rs. 83,780.

The principal trunk telephone lines are—

	Miles.
(1) Colombo-Kandy-Gampola-Hatton-Nuwara Eliya ..	132
(2) Gampola-Pussellawa-Nuwara Eliya ..	34
(3) Colombo-Kalutara-Galle-Matara ..	99
(4) Colombo-Avissawella-Ratnapura ..	64
(5) Colombo-Polgahawela-Kurunegala ..	59
(6) Colombo-Ragama-Negombo ..	23
(7) Kandy-Wartegama-Matale ..	21
(8) Nuwara Eliya-Haputale-Diyatalawa-Bandarawela ..	36

The Government telephone system at the end of 1923 comprised 9,813 miles of overhead and 16,028 miles of underground wire.

There are 25 licensed exchanges, and the largest private systems are—

- (a) The Norwood-Maskeliya-Bogawantalawa system, with exchanges at those places having 40, 51, and 31 subscribers, respectively;
- (b) The Talawakele-Tillicoultry and Agrapatna system, with exchanges at those places having 36, 29, and 27 subscribers, respectively; and
- (c) The Galaha-Hewaheta system, with 60 and 5 subscribers, respectively.

The Neboda private system serves 35 subscribers.

The revenue of the Department in 1923 is estimated at, roughly, Rs. 5,274,071. The principal increases were under the heads of Postage (some Rs. 233,000) and Telephone Receipts (some Rs. 72,000).

The value of free services rendered to other Government Departments, not included in these totals, was estimated at Rs. 800,000, but no reliable estimate can be framed of the value of free services rendered by them to the Postal Department.

The total expenditure from the votes of the Postal Department was Rs. 3,671,720, but the temporary increases to salaries totalling Rs. 518,354 were paid up to end of September, 1923, in addition from the Treasurer's vote; and a further sum of Rs. 321,150 was charged to the Loan Account for works of telephone development.

The total sum expended by Government on education in 1922-23 was Rs. 2,532,787-97, of which approximately $\frac{2}{5}$ ths was spent on Government schools and $\frac{3}{5}$ ths on aided schools.

FIG. 1

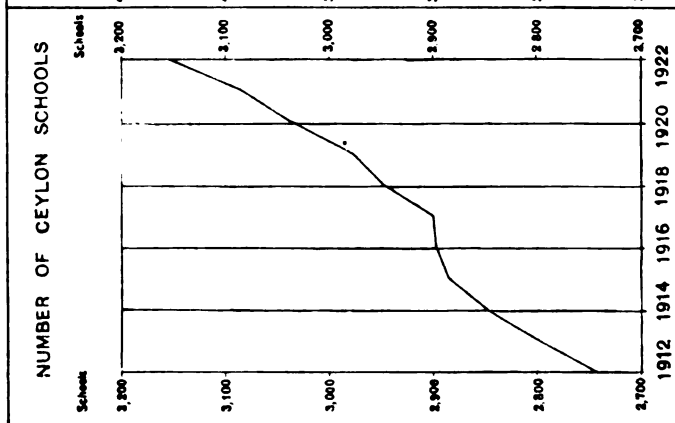


FIG. 2

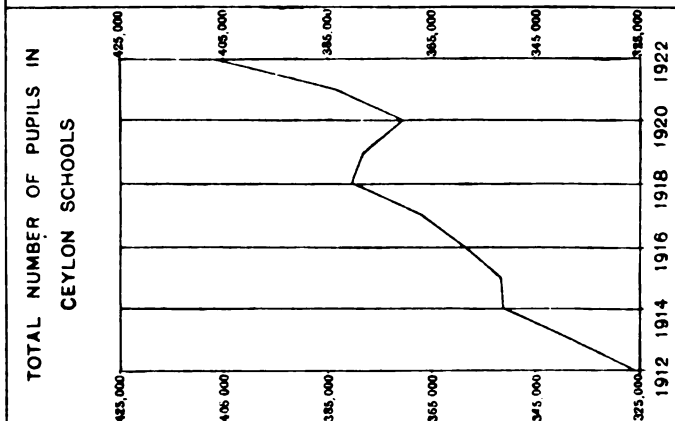
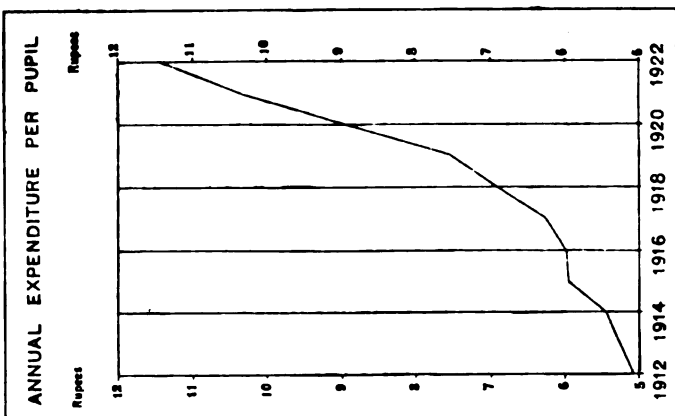


FIG. 3



Graphs of the Survey Dept. Ceylon

in addition from the Treasurer's vote; and a further sum of Rs. 321,150 was charged to the Loan Account for works of telephone development.

IX.—Education.

SCHOOLS GENERALLY.

SCHOOLS in Ceylon may be broadly divided into three classes : English, Anglo-vernacular, and vernacular. The vernacular schools are attended by about 85 per cent. of the school-going population. The English and Anglo-vernacular schools provide elementary education leading up to the English School-leaving Certificate Examination. Secondary English schools provide an education leading up to the Cambridge Senior School Certificate Examination and the London University Matriculation Examination. There are also classes for commercial subjects in some of the larger schools. There is an increasing demand for English, and an attempt has been made to meet this demand by a scheme of Government Central English and Anglo-vernacular schools for rural districts, where children may receive an English education. Such schools have been opened at Hénaratgoda, Piliyandala, Veyangoda, Kadawata, Udugampola, Bomiriya, Beruwala, and Wadduwa in the Western Province ; at Induruwa, Hikkaduwa, Ahungalla, Godauda, and Mirissa in the Southern Province ; and at Puttalam in the North-Western Province. The inclusion of Sinhalese and Tamil in the London Matriculation and Intermediate Arts Examinations and the Cambridge Examinations has given a stimulus to the study of the vernacular languages. Several secondary schools are now teaching Sinhalese and Tamil. English has suffered in the past from Latin being taught in the schools to boys from Sinhalese- and Tamil-speaking homes, who have not acquired a sound knowledge of English, and have little facility in expressing themselves in any but their own language.

VERNACULAR EDUCATION.

In 1923 there were 1,039 Government vernacular schools, with an attendance of 105,916 boys and 45,299 girls. There were also 1,826 schools, with an attendance of 125,930 boys and 81,152 girls. Of these, 260 were estate schools, with an attendance of 8,949 boys and 1,583 girls. A school for the deaf and blind started in 1912 receives grant at the rate of Rs. 5 per mensem per child on the average number of children on the roll during the year.

The total sum expended by Government on the vernacular education in 1922-23 was Rs. 2,532,787.97, of which approximately $\frac{2}{5}$ ths was spent on Government schools and $\frac{3}{5}$ ths on aided schools.

The Code for Assisted English Schools and the Code for Assisted Vernacular and Anglo-vernacular Schools, framed under the Education Ordinance, No. 1 of 1920, came into force on February 10, 1923. The Education Ordinance has been proclaimed with effect from January 1, 1924, and steps are being taken to form Education District Committees under the Ordinance.

SCHOOLS TEACHING ENGLISH.

In 1923 there were 301 English and Anglo-vernacular schools attended by 61,003 pupils, of whom 47,349 were boys and 13,654 girls. There is one Government secondary school in Colombo, with an average attendance of 503. The cost to Government of this school for the year was Rs. 91,424·21, and fees recovered amounted to Rs. 37,787.

There were 39 secondary schools, the total average attendance at which was 14,694.

In most of the larger schools candidates are prepared for the Senior and Junior Cambridge School Certificate Examinations. In 1922 the number of candidates who presented themselves and the results obtained were—

		Candidates.		Honours.		Other Passes.
Senior ..	..	1,046	..	84	..	257
Junior ..	..	1,285	..	110	..	558

There are special syllabuses for Ceylon students in English, Science, and Needlework, special stress being laid on the necessity for obtaining a high standard in English. The results of the London University Examinations in 1923 showed that 498 candidates from Ceylon presented themselves for the Matriculation Examination, 75 of whom passed. Eight candidates passed the First Examination for Medical degrees and 6 the Second Examination, Part I. Ninety-two candidates presented themselves for the Intermediate Examination in Arts, 39 of whom passed. Sixty-nine candidates took up the Intermediate Examination in Science, 25 of whom passed. Six candidates entered for the Inter. Science Economics, 2 of whom passed. One entered for the Inter. Science Agriculture and passed. Two candidates presented themselves for the Intermediate Examination in Laws, none passed. Three out of the 5 candidates who took up the LL.B. Examination passed. Twenty-nine candidates presented themselves for the B.A. degree, 20 for the B.Sc., 1 for the B.A. Honours degree in History and English, and 1 for the B.Sc. Honours in Anthropology, but the results of these examinations had not reached at the end of the

Stage VI.	..	..	..	2	0
Standard VII.	..	..	..	3	0
Standard VIII. (Elementary School-leaving Certificate Class)	..	..	..	4	0

FIG. 4

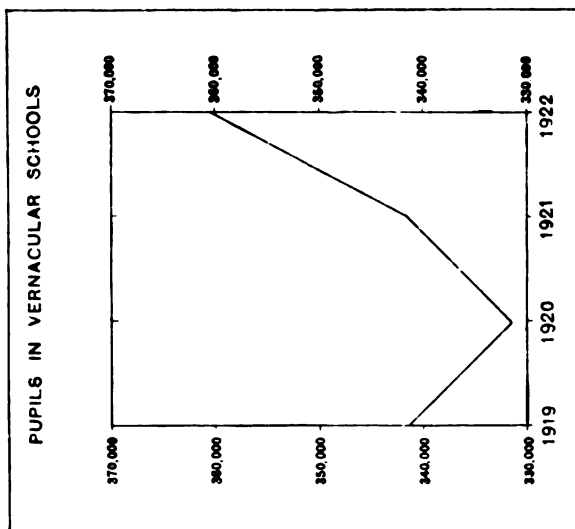
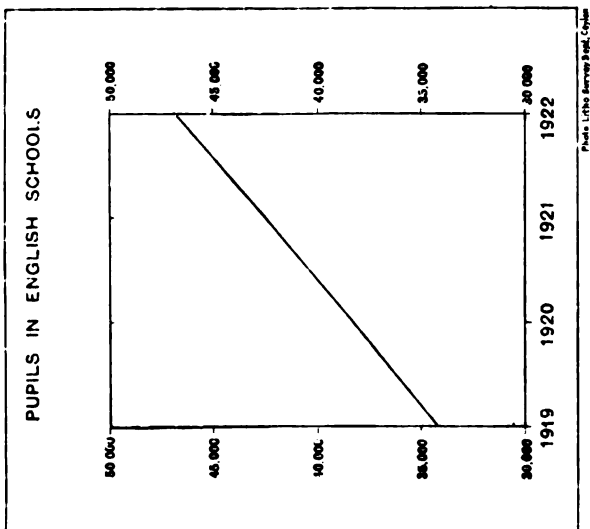
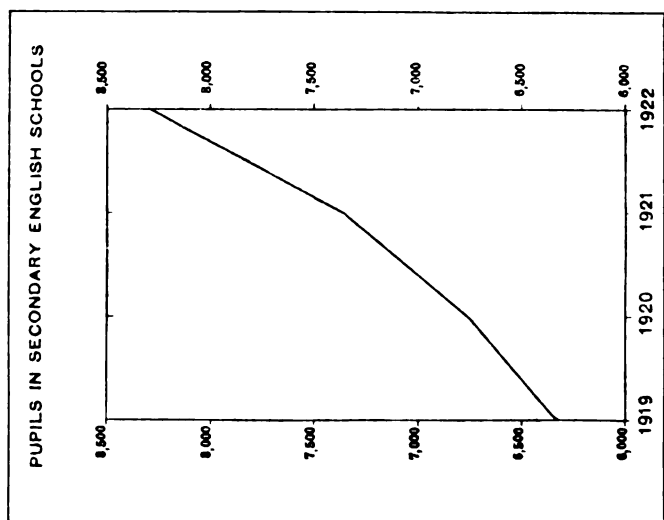


FIG. 5



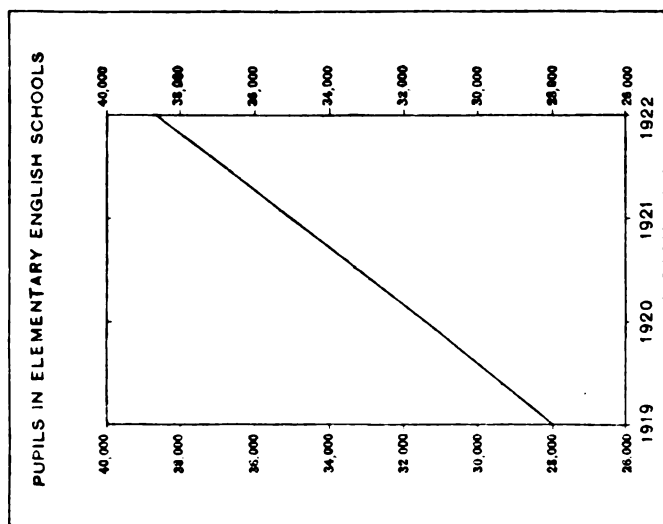
Students presented themselves for the B.A. degree, 20 for the B.Sc., 1 for the B.A. Honours degree in History and English, and 1 for the B.Sc. Honours in Anthropology, but the results of these examinations had not reached at the end of the

FIG. 7



Public Lines Survey Dept. Ceylon

FIG. 6



Stage VI.	..	..	..	12	0
Standard VII.	..	..	..	3	0
Standard VIII. (Elementary School-leaving Certificate Class)	..	..	..	4	0

the B.Sc., 1 for the B.A. Honours degree in History and English, and 1 for the B.Sc. Honours in Anthropology, but the results of these examinations had not reached at the end of the

year. In 1922 7 obtained the B.A. degree and 6 the B.Sc. The encouragement offered by Government takes the form of grants or scholarships. In the majority of the assisted English schools grants are paid on the average attendance, as laid down in the schedules of the Code. Special grants are paid on account of buildings and equipment.

Five Government scholarships are now offered : one on the results of the Final Examination in Arts of the London University and one on the results of the Final Examination in Science. A third scholarship is awarded on the results of the Final Examination in Science on condition that the holder studies Agriculture and Forestry. Two more scholarships are awarded on the results of the Final Examination in Science on condition that the selected candidate pursue a course of studies in Engineering. The first three scholarships are tenable for two years, and the two Engineering scholarships for three years. The scholarships are of the value of £300 per annum, with free passage and outfit allowance of £50. The holders may join any British University or any recognized engineering institution in the United Kingdom.

An exhibition of Rs. 250 or Rs. 300 a year has been offered by the Hon. Sir H. M. Fernando, Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, to the Ceylon student who obtains the highest marks in botany and either chemistry or agricultural science in the Cambridge Senior School Certificate Examination.

The following is the scale of fees charged in the various classes of Government English and Anglo-vernacular schools in the Island :—

<i>Government English Schools.</i>			Per Mensem. Rs. c.
Preparatory Classes .. ..	..	..	2 0
First Year Class .. ..	..	..	2 50
Second Year Class .. ..	..	..	3 0
Standard V. .. ..	..	..	3 50
Standard VI. .. ..	..	..	4 0
Standard VII. .. ..	..	..	4 50
English School-leaving Certificate Class ..	..	..	5 0

<i>Anglo-vernacular Schools.</i>			
Stage I. .. ..	..	..	0 50
Stage II. .. ..	..	..	0 75
Stage III. .. ..	..	..	1 0
Stage IV. .. ..	..	..	1 25
Stage V. .. ..	..	..	1 50
Stage VI. .. ..	..	..	2 0
Standard VII. .. ..	..	..	3 0
Standard VIII. (Elementary School-leaving Certificate Class) .. ..	..	..	4 0

The 1923 Code for Assisted English Schools lays down the following minimum scale of fees for elementary schools :—

Grade I. Schools.

In Provinces other than the Northern, Eastern, and North-Central Provinces.

				Per Mensem. Rs. c.
Lower Kindergarten	..	..	..	1 0
Upper Kindergarten	..	..	..	1 50
Standard II.	..	..	..	2 0
Standard III.	..	..	..	2 50
Standard IV.	..	..	..	3 0
Standard V.	..	..	..	3 50
Standard VI.	..	..	..	4 0
Standard VII.	..	..	..	4 50
Elementary School-leaving Certificate Class	..	..	..	5 0

In the Northern, Eastern, and North-Central Provinces.

Lower Kindergarten	..	..	..	1 0
Upper Kindergarten	..	..	..	1 50
Standard II. and III.	..	..	..	2 0
Standard IV.	..	..	..	2 50
Standard V.	..	..	..	3 0
Standard VI.	..	..	..	3 50
Standard VII. and Elementary School-leaving Certificate Class	..	..	..	4 0

Grade II. Schools.

Kindergarten and Standard II.	..	..	..	1 0
Standard III., IV., and V.	..	..	..	2 0
Standard VI., VII., and Elementary School-leaving Certificate Class	..	..	..	3 0

GOVERNMENT TRAINING COLLEGE.

The Government Training College consists of three departments: English (men and women), Sinhalese (men), and Sinhalese (women). The object is to supply trained teachers for aided English schools and Government Anglo-vernacular and vernacular schools. At the beginning of 1923 the number of students in training was on the English side 35 men and 44 women, on the Sinhalese side 43 men and 40 women.

A training school for Tamil teachers was opened at Kopay, Jaffna, in October, 1923. Fifty-three students have been admitted.

A class of 20 boys under eleven years of age at the time of admission was formed in 1918 from boys in vernacular schools. Further classes of 20 each were formed in 1919 and 1920. The board and lodging of these boys are paid by public subscriptions. Their tuition is free. The boys of the first batch are now up to the average of Cambridge Senior Form, and are much in advance



PILIYANDALA GOVERNMENT ENGLISH MIXED SCHOOL.

of boys of their own age who have been learning English for several years. These boys knew no English when they joined: No class was formed either in 1921 or 1922 owing to want of accommodation and funds. The 12 best students out of the first batch were given scholarships at the Royal College in May, 1923. The 20 teachers who were in training at the Henaratgoda Garden Schools for Anglo-vernacular teachers having passed out, another batch of 20 teachers was admitted in 1923.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

In 1923 the aided industrial schools, which are 33 in number, received grants amounting to Rs. 31,674·33. The trades taught were carpentry, dressmaking, tailoring, lacemaking, embroidery, gardening, cookery, weaving, shoemaking, and smithy work. The most important of these schools is the Maggona Certified Industrial School, which is utilized by Government as a reformatory for youthful offenders.

This institution is managed by the Roman Catholic Mission. It has an estate of some 300 acres and excellent buildings, towards the cost of which Government has contributed. 277 youthful offenders are at present receiving instruction in this school, and an allowance is paid by Government for the maintenance of each offender. The amount so paid in the year 1922-23 was Rs. 43,482·30. Another important industrial school is that at Wellawatta, Colombo, under the management of the Wesleyan Mission. The amount of grant paid to this institution in 1923 amounted to Rs. 4,800.

An impetus was given to home industries, which are taught in different parts of the Island, by the appointment of two Inspectors of Industries—one for weaving schools and one for carpentry and general industrial work. Carpentry is taught in 32 schools, and 21 schools have carpentry sheds with instructors attached. Thirty-two schools are engaged in cloth-weaving, of which 5 are Government schools. Printing and bookbinding are taught in 56 schools, shoemaking in 1, and smithy work in 2 schools. Cane and rattan work in 4 schools. Three schools are equipped for lacquer work. One school is equipped for pottery work. Basket-weaving and mat-weaving are taught in several schools, hat-making in the Kalutara District, and in 25 schools there are classes in basket-making for children.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

Elementary agricultural instruction is given by a scheme of school gardens conducted in connection with Government

schools. The gardens are under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture. There is a Superintendent of School Gardens, who is assisted by three Inspectors. The total number of registered school gardens at the end of 1923 was 548. The number of gardens attached to grant-in-aid schools was 96. 106 school gardens are awaiting registration. Seeds and implements are supplied by the Department of Agriculture, and prizes are offered for competition. Twelve Government teachers underwent a special course of training at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. The scheme has been supplemented by the establishment of home gardens in large numbers, seeds being provided for boys who undertake to plant up vegetables in their home compounds.

TECHNICAL.

Government Technical Schools, Colombo.—A reorganization scheme was put into operation at the Government Technical Schools, Colombo, in May of this year, and the work of the schools was divided into three branches, viz. : Technical, Commercial, and Art. There are full-time courses in telegraph and telephone engineering and signalling. In addition, evening classes are held in building construction, mechanical engineering, electric wiring, carpentry, and joinery, there are also drawing classes for carpenters, motor drivers, and mechanics.

Commercial classes are held in English, typewriting, shorthand, bookkeeping, business routine, commercial arithmetic, and commercial geography. Art classes are held in drawing (for teachers), painting, and geometrical drawing.

The fees for a part-time course average Rs. 15 per annum, apprentices being charged half rate. The full-time courses and some commercial classes form part of the training provided by Government for apprentices and clerks in training in the Postal and Railway Services, and these students receive a maintenance allowance. An important innovation is being tried in conjunction with the Government workshops whereby apprentices attend the school for technical instruction during two full days per week.

The Jaffna Technical School was opened on October 8, 1921. There were 38 students at the end of the year. Sixty-three scholarships have been promised. Manual training, woodwork, and drawing are taught in this school.

FIG. 8

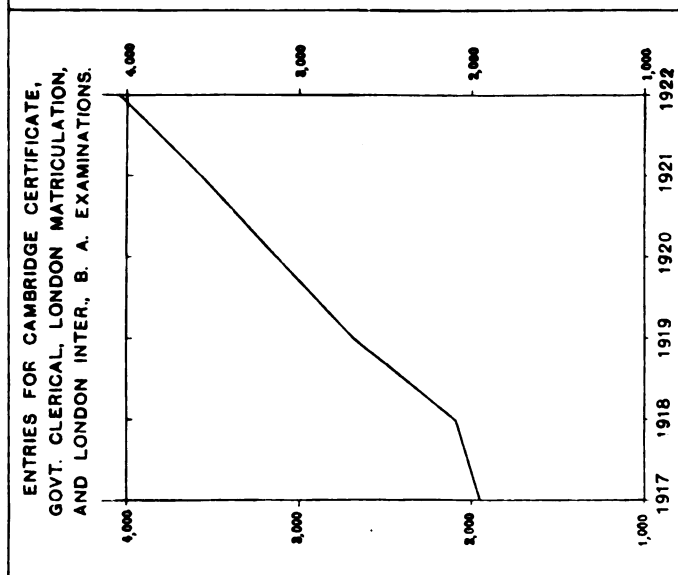


FIG. 9

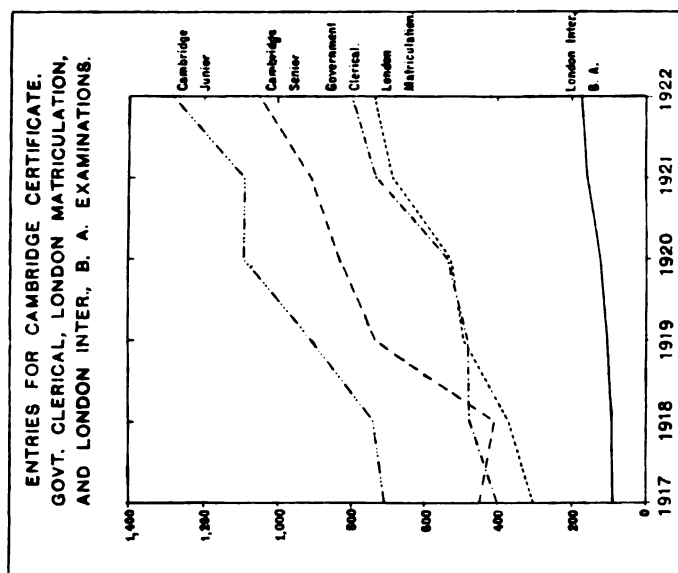


Photo-Litho Bureau Dept. Census

the year to consider the report of its Sub-Committee on Degree Courses presented at the end of 1922. At these sessions it passed a virtually complete series of recommendations for the degree courses of the future University.

THE SUMMIT TECHNICAL SCHOOL WAS OPENED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1911. There were 38 students at the end of the year. Sixty-three scholarships have been promised. Manual training, woodwork, and drawing are taught in this school.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

The University College continues for the present to prepare students in Ceylon for the B.A., B.Sc., and B.Sc. (Economics) Examinations of London University.

The number of new students admitted in October, 1923, the beginning of the academic year 1923-24, was 118, and the total number of students in attendance was 234.

Instruction is offered in English, Latin, Greek, French, German, Sanskrit, Pali, Sinhalese, Tamil, History, Logic, Philosophy, Geography, Economics, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology.

There are Honours classes in Classics, Mathematics, and Chemistry. Additions to the staff, which have been sanctioned this year, will make possible Honours classes in Botany also.

The results of the Final Examinations held in October, 1922, and published in 1923 were at their announcement marked by the congratulations of the Registrar of London University.

The results of the Intermediate Examination received at the end of the year show an increase in the percentage of passes over the year previous, and compare favourably with the percentages of students for the London external examinations conducted in England.

Recent changes in the curriculum of the Ceylon Medical College have caused the introduction of a Pre-Registration Examination, almost identical with the London Intermediate. Preparation for this Pre-Medical Examination is one of the courses offered at University College.

Courses of lectures open to the public, somewhat on the lines of University extension, were given in Philosophy, History, English, and on scientific subjects by members of the staff during the year.

In October the buildings till then occupied by the Royal College were transferred to University College. All lectures, save those in science, are now given in this ampler accommodation, while the library enriched by the purchase of books to the amount of the Government grant (Rs. 20,000) is expanding through the upper half of College House, the original building.

The three hostels continue to be fully occupied, showing the need and value of such institutions.

The Academic Committee held a number of sessions through the year to consider the report of its Sub-Committee on Degree Courses presented at the end of 1922. At these sessions it passed a virtually complete series of recommendations for the degree courses of the future University.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL COMMISSION.

The estimate for this year was cut down by Rs. 9,000 in order to provide funds for the publication of the late Mr. Ayrton's memoirs. The total estimates, including an apportionment of Rs. 2,500 from the Government Agent's vote under clearing and maintaining Crown reservations, amounted to Rs. 87,209.

Expenditure and Revenue.

The nett expenditure of the Department has been Rs. 82,595·69. Revenue collected from the sale of photographic prints, rent of Government quarters, and other miscellaneous items is Rs. 1,519·78.

Library.

Considerable additions have been made to the library.

The accumulated arrears of binding have been very much reduced.

The library has been finally put in order, and it remains only to issue a catalogue for the information of the public and that of other libraries so as to avoid overlapping.

The old manuscripts have been arranged and indexed.

All the old squeezes that could be identified have been numbered, and the total number of inscriptions registered is now 289.

Collections.

The small excavation at Talgasväva produced a varied collection of pots and figurines similar to the Puttalam finds discovered last year.

The old collection has been overhauled, and all the objects that could be identified have been numbered and entered.

Reservation.

No progress has been made in defining the Anuradhapura reservations, as the town survey is yet incomplete.

Signposts have been put up in Polonnaruwa which will enable visitors to dispense with a guide, who knows neither English nor the monuments.

The whole of the railing, the iron platform, and the iron steps at Sigirya have been cleaned and painted with bituminous solution.

The Kusta Rāja Gala at Väligama has been definitely acquired and enclosed.

The survey of Arankäle has been completed, and it merely remains to proclaim it.

Conservation.

At *Anuradhapura*.—The Selacaitiya had been completed last year, except for the laying of the pavement slabs on the platform. This was completed this year,

The pointing at “Elephant Stables” was also completed.

The Government having rescinded the offer to the Atamas-thana Committee of the area round Thúparama, it became possible to proceed with the work on this temple. This consisted mostly in pointing the walls of the temple and the outer wall.

The Gedige has long been in a delicate condition ; in fact the three piers of brickwork which alone remained of the super-structure were only supported by banyans which at the same time were eating into them. In order to interfere as little as possible with a picturesque ruin, which could only lose by conservation, the tops of the trees had been lopped off to check their progress, but the result was to kill them and thus to weaken the support they gave. Collapse was therefore bound to ensue sooner or later, and there was no alternative but to take it in hand.

The work was undertaken and carried out along the lines suggested by the Architectural Assistant to the Public Works Department by “the rebuilding of walling at the sides and in between the piers from the basement level upwards, thus forming buttresses.” The piers were re-faced and brought out to their original surface with old bricks cemented together and carefully pieced on to and bonded in with the old coursing. All the new courses were strengthened with hoop iron, vertical iron girders let into the sides of the old brickwork, and the new brickwork was tied to the old with round irons. The basement was cleaned up and pointed, and what door and window frames could be identified were put back into position. The result appears to be less regrettable than might have been expected.

In *Polonnaruwa* the work at the Demala Maha Säya was completed. This consisted mainly in clearing the wall tops of rubbish and making them waterproof. The whole building was pointed. The doorways on the tops of the walls were put back in position. The plaster floor was repaired by filling in the holes : this new flooring marks an improvement on that we put in at the Lankatilaka in 1921, which was not a success from the point of view of appearance.

Having put in order two specimens of the Polonnaruwa brick temple and one stupa, it was decided to take in hand a specimen of secular building. Work was therefore started on the King's Palace : the restoration found necessary consisted almost entirely

in pointing and here and there building up the sides of the platform where the rains were washing it down. The walls were rent with cracks, not immediately dangerous but requiring attention: these were filled in, tied with iron cramps, and re-faced. The outbuildings were also taken in hand.

After the close of the Polonnaruwa season, work was begun on the Nakha Vehera: a good deal of this building had already fallen down since it was first excavated; nevertheless, it remains one of the most considerable brick buildings in Anuradhapura apart from the stupas.

There is at *Mihintale* near Kaludiya Pokuna a small cave temple with stone portico. The whole structure had been pushed over by the pressure of the earth on the east side and the attacks of a banyan tree from the rock above, that it was thought advisable to prop it up last year. This year it has been dismantled, and the work is now in progress.

Research.

A survey of ancient roads has been undertaken, but it has not been possible as yet to extend operations outside the immediate neighbourhood of Anuradhapura. It is hoped at some date to follow up these roads towards the coast, a difficult undertaking in a jungle country: the most that can be hoped for is to pick up sections and infer the rest. Much information could thus be gathered about ancient routes and harbours.

COLOMBO MUSEUM.

The Colombo Museum is a Government institution founded in 1877 by His Excellency Sir William Gregory. It is a two-storied building of imposing appearance standing in spacious grounds about 3 miles from the Fort or business centre. The Museum contains a valuable collection of archæological, ethnological, zoological, and mineralogical exhibits restricted to Ceylon and the Maldivé Islands. A valuable reference library is attached to the Museum. Readers are permitted to consult books in the library, but books cannot be removed. Over 200,000 people visit the Museum annually.

During 1923 a very important departure in the publication on scientific literature has been made.

The *Ceylon Journal of Science* has been established by the Ceylon Government for the publication of scientific and other researches dealing with Ceylon. In the first instance the journal will consist of seven sections, and each section will be virtually a separate publication with its own editor. Further, each section will have its own system of paging and will appear independently of other sections. Only for purposes of general administration and to ensure uniformity will the various sections be controlled by a general Editorial Board.

FISHERIES.

Marine Fisheries.—These are carried on entirely by the local fishermen in their primitive catamarans and outrigger canoes. All the fishing appliances used are most primitive, the most effective kind being undoubtedly the long lines. In the inshore waters nets of various kinds are used, but in the open sea line fishing only is practised with any success.

It is a noteworthy fact that the fishermen have no means of trawling for fish in deep water. Such a method demands enterprise and a considerable outlay of money. There can be no doubt that the fisheries of Ceylon are not exploited as they ought to be. At present the distribution of the fish obtained is governed by the position of the coast railways. Roughly speaking, it may be said that the local fishing grounds cover an area of some 7,000 square miles, about half of which is within reach of the railway, and here the fish are put on ice and sent to the big centres of population. The fish caught in the other half are either consumed locally or are dried for export to other parts of the Island.

It is interesting to note that these 7,000 square miles include no suitable trawling grounds of any commercial value, but it seems likely that if the mid-water seine net, which is now being used so extensively and successfully in Northern Europe, were introduced it might prove to be the best means of increasing the production of food fish. Mention has been made in previous reports of the trawling experiments. About 4,000 square miles of trawling ground have been surveyed, viz., the Point Pedro bank off the north-east corner of Ceylon and the Wadge bank off Cape Comorin. It is important to note that neither of these banks is being fished over by the native fishermen, and after a very careful examination of the results obtained in the experimental operations it seems certain that in due course a successful trawling industry will be established. During 1923 the Marine Biological Survey was suspended for reasons of economy, so that the survey of the new fishing grounds is still incomplete.

The following are the returns of fish imports from 1920-1923* :—

Year.	Cured Fish. Rs.	Tinned Fish. Rs.	Fish Manure. Rs.	Fish Guano. Rs.	Fish Oil. Rs.	Total. Rs.
1923 ..	8,095,475..	197,103..	799,039..	1,476,107..	2,553..	10,570,277
1922 ..	7,627,882..	131,882..	599,515..	1,061,245..	1,651..	9,422,175
1921 ..	7,058,148..	97,495..	370,738..	230,279..	2,105..	7,758,765
1920 ..	4,508,568..	230,147..	1,338,411..	1,967,961..	2,775..	8,047,862

Pearl Banks.—Inspections were made in March and November of the year under review, and new spat-falls were recorded. The tendency has been for the successive spat-falls on the northern paars to encroach upon the East Cheval Paar, that is to say, the area covered by oysters has increased in a south-easterly direction.

In March, 1923, the following approximate calculations were made :—

(1) *Cheval Group.*

1920-21 Oysters	115 millions
1921-22 Oysters ..	..	" hundreds of millions "
1922-23 Oysters ..	..	" thousands of millions "

(2) *Muttuvaratu Group.*

1921-22 Oysters ..	..	30 millions
1922-23 Oysters	500 millions

(3) *Chilaw Group.*

1922-23 Oysters	100 millions
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The brief inspection in November showed that a further spat-fall had taken place and that the oysters previously discovered were thriving. It is expected that the 1920-21 oysters on the Cheval Group will be ready for fishing in March, 1925, and successive batches should be ready in the following years.

Hydrographical Work in the Gulf of Mannar.—This work, to which reference was made in the last report, was continued during 1923, and a paper summarizing the results of all the investigations made up to the present is in course of preparation.

Window-pane Oyster Fishery.—A spat-fall occurred during 1923, and it is hoped that this will prove the starting point of another series of fisheries.

Edible Oyster Fisheries.—Owing to the continuous wet weather from May to November the flourishing bed of edible oysters in the estuary at Weligama was completely destroyed, and our oyster investigations have had to be suspended in consequence.

* Import duty on fish goods was raised from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. in 1923.

Bulletins of the Ceylon Fisheries.—The first part of this new publication appeared in 1923. It contained the following papers :—

Bulletin No. 1.—“ Hydrographical Investigations at Lake Tamblegam.”

Bulletin No. 2.—“ Statistics Dealing with the Growth-rate. &c., of *Placuna placenta*.”

Bulletin No. 3.—“ Fishing Appliances in Ceylon.”

X.—Medical.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

I.—Hospitals and other Medical Institutions.

THERE are 91 Government hospitals in the Island, including the General Hospital, Colombo, with 711 beds, and a hospital for tuberculosis equipped with modern hospital furniture and appliances. The total of admissions into all Government hospitals during the year was 34,522 ; there were 568 deaths. There are 472 central and branch dispensaries, including a central institute in Colombo for tuberculosis cases (fitted with X'ray apparatus).

The owners of estates have provided 78 estate hospitals, which receive a rebate of export duty on estate produce, and 565 estate dispensaries, to which drugs are issued free up to the value of 50 cents per annum for every labourer employed.

(2) *Asylums, &c.* — The Lunatic Asylum contained 1,204 inmates on December 31, 1923. The new asylum buildings at Angoda, 6 miles from Colombo, is still in progress, and when completed will have accommodation for 1,500 patients and for the necessary staff and servants. At present about 150 lunatic patients are lodged in a temporary asylum at Matara owing to insufficient accommodation in the Colombo asylum. The number of patients treated in the asylum during 1923 was 1,556 (944 males and 612 females). The number discharged was 225 (156 males and 69 females). These figures include those of the House of Observation. Of the two Leper Asylums, one is at Hendala, 6 miles from Colombo, and contained 516 patients at the end of the year. The total treated during 1923 numbered 647. The other at Mantivu contained 114 lepers at the end of the year ; the total treated during 1923 was 174. A Home for Incurables of 80 beds is administered by a Committee of Government officials and representatives of the public.

There are in Colombo a Bacteriological Institute, a Pasteur Institute, an Ophthalmic Hospital, a Lying-in Home, a Hospital

for Women and Children, and a Hospital for Infectious Diseases. There are special dispensaries at Kandy and Galle for the treatment of eye diseases.

(3) *Medical College*.—The full course of training at the College is five years for the medical students and two years for the apothecary students. A diploma in medicine, surgery, and midwifery (which can be registered in the United Kingdom) is granted to successful medical students. The apothecary students are employed by Government after they qualify in the final examination.

The following were the attendances and passes during the last two years :—

	Attendances		Passes.	
	Medical.	Apothecaries.	Medical.	Apothecaries.
1921, October, to 1922, March	219	.. 47	9	.. 9
1922, May, to 1922, July ..	197	.. 33	5	.. 8
1922, October, to 1923, March..	215	.. 46	2	.. 6
1923, May, to 1923, July ..	167	.. 33	3	.. 6
December, 1922, Extra Final Examination	..	.. —	7	.. —

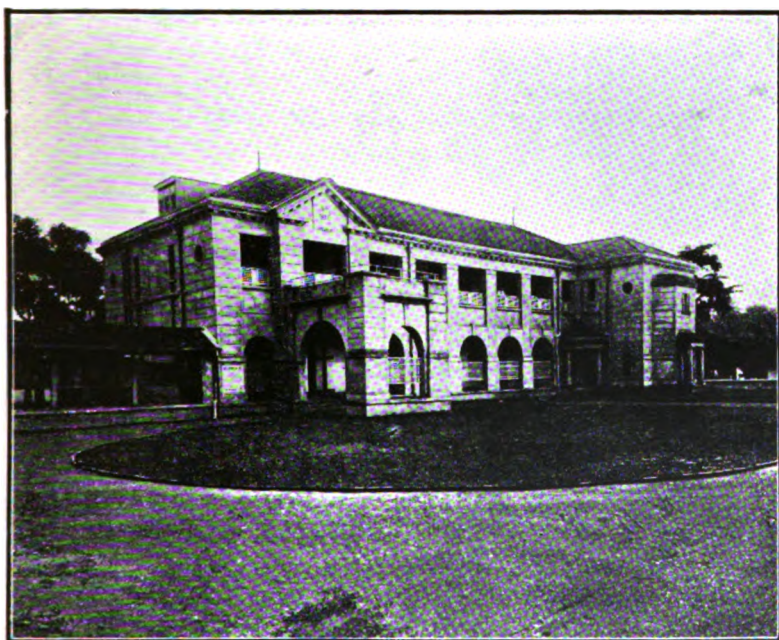
II.—*Work of the Sanitary Department during the Year.*

(1) *Insanitary Premises*.—During the year 300,214 premises were inspected, of which 68,919 were found insanitary, and necessary action was taken. 3,693 prosecutions were entered for breaches of sanitary rules and regulations, and in the majority of cases convictions were obtained. The fines recovered amounted to Rs. 10,451·95. 15,653 notices were served calling upon householders to remedy sanitary defects ; in the case of 8,622 of these the requirements of the notices were voluntarily complied with, while in the case of the rest persuasion was required.

(2) *New Buildings*.—The Department dealt with 2,211 building applications in all, and approved plans for 769 new buildings as conforming to requirements of Housing Ordinance. The largest number of applications came from the small towns of the Western Province.

(3) *Infectious Diseases*.—The following infectious diseases were reported, and the necessary action was taken in regard to prevention :—

Chickenpox	..	..	..	2,123
Diphtheria	..	..	..	7
Dysentery	..	..	..	1,649
Enteric fever	..	..	..	709
Measles ..	..	..	..	575
Mumps ..	..	..	..	12
Phthisis ..	..	..	..	62
Plague ..	..	..	..	6
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	65



NEW SEAMEN'S WARD, GENERAL HOSPITAL, COLOMBO.

The Department was also concerned with the inspection and construction of public and private latrines, with the domestic water supply in Local Board and Sanitary Board towns, with the supervision of licensed trades, and with scavenging arrangements. Type-plans were designed for a public market comprising boutiques, meat stalls, vegetable stalls, and fish stalls, a public laundry, a pit latrine for estates, and school lavatory.

Lithograph copies of these type-plans have been prepared by the Surveyor-General's Department. It is gratifying to note that applications for these type-plans are being received in increasing numbers from Chairmen of Urban District Councils, Local Boards, and Sanitary Boards.

There was a Public Health Section at the Gampaha Floral Festival which was held from July 7 to 14, 1923. Leaflets in English and the vernaculars in regard to the various preventible diseases in Ceylon were distributed among visitors. During the period of the festival a course of seven lectures in practical sanitation and demonstrations was given in Sinhalese by the Sanitary Superintendent to police headmen from various parts of the Island. The course was well attended, and keen interest was taken in the subjects dealt with.

III.—*Special Measures taken during the Year with regard to certain Diseases.*

(1) *Malaria*.—In November, 1923, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the extension for one year of the office of Government Malariologist in order that certain lines of research could be completed and a detailed report issued on the subject of malaria control in Ceylon.

Education and Propaganda.—Public lantern lectures in English and the vernaculars have been given at Anuradhapura, Badulla, Trincomalee, and Gampaha, and lantern lectures and demonstrations at schools at Badulla and Trincomalee. An extensive series (about eighty) of lantern slides of local application and several posters, illustrating the more important facts and principles underlying modern methods of prevention and control, have been prepared during the past two years. Several thousand pamphlets and handbills on malaria have been distributed to towns and villages in various parts of the Island.

Malaria Research and Control.—Detailed malaria surveys of the four centres mentioned above, and of Trincomalee, were completed, and further inquiries instituted into the bionomics and seasonal prevalence of *Anopheles* and other factors influencing the incidence and spread of the disease at these towns.

Other investigations included continuance of the work on paddy cultivation and malaria, and an attempt to determine the reasons for the relatively low incidence of malaria in the south-west portion of the Island.

Larvivorous Fish.—Further collections of larvivorous fish have been made and are awaiting identification. *Haplochilus lineatus*, the species occurring so abundantly in the swampy areas of the Western and Southern Provinces, has now been found in large numbers in swamps and flooded paddy fields on the east coast in the Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Mullaittivu Districts; with the exception of the last-named places, the species has been rarely found in the dry zone of Ceylon. Attempts to establish it in nurseries, for subsequent distribution to wells and non-permanent pools in districts where malaria is intense and larvivorous fish relatively scanty, have not proved very successful. Much more promising results have been obtained with the West Indian species, *Gambusia affinis*—"Millions"—which is not only more voracious and prolific, but less susceptible to changes of environment. With care and attention "Millions" should eventually become established throughout the greater part of the Island, and their periodical distribution to wells and non-permanent pools should then afford a valuable measure of control. Additional nurseries for both species were opened at Jaffna in September; *Gambusia* increased sufficiently in numbers to allow of their initial distribution in November to wells in which *Anopheles* were breeding. Distribution of "Millions" to wells and pools was also carried out at Talaimannar and Trincomalee during the last few months of the year.

(2) *Anchylostomiasis*. — The International Health Board (Rockefeller Foundation) continued the campaign against this disease. The Director for Ceylon was advised by the Anchylostomiasis Campaign Committee consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Principal Civil Medical Officer, the Sanitary Commissioner, representatives of Provincial Governments, Estates, and Agents, and the Senior Members of the Anchylostomiasis Staff.

Extent of Operations.—The intensive village treatment campaign carried out in 1923 was confined solely to the Western Province, and to areas selected and sanitated by the Sanitary Commissioner six months before the commencement of treatment measures. The districts treated were Siyane korale east, the northern half of Hapitigam korale, and Mahara district.

Apart from this work in villages, a scheme for instructing medical officers and apothecaries in Government medical institutions was carried out, and an important demonstration of anchylostomiasis control on estates was given in the North

INCIDENCE OF MALARIA.

IN

CEYLON.

as shown by the percentage of
enlarged spleens in school children.

(From the office of the Malariaologist.)
1922.

Scale of 40 Miles to an Inch



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Matale Group. All areas selected for intensive treatment were dealt with by the Sanitary Department before operations were started. In the majority of the up-country tea estates lines, latrines, and compounds have been remodelled according to approved plans, and the progress made is most encouraging. The expenditure by estates or their agents during 1923 in improving the health of the cooly is estimated at approximately 15 million rupees.

(3) *Parangi* (Framboesia, or Yaws).—The number of hospital admissions was 9,748 with 32 deaths, as against 13,545 admissions in 1922. The decrease in the number of hospital cases during the year was due to intensive campaigns carried out by three Itinerating Medical Officers, and the treatment by modern methods every week of a large number of outpatients at dispensaries and the outpatient departments of hospitals. The distribution of the disease judged from hospital returns is shown in the following table :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
General Hospital, Colombo	102 ..	267 ..	306 ..	436
Western Province ..	601 ..	1,096 ..	1,499 ..	770
Central Province ..	1,275 ..	1,202 ..	1,312 ..	1,194
Northern Province ..	157 ..	102 ..	504 ..	387
Eastern Province ..	749 ..	791 ..	646 ..	465
Southern Province ..	783 ..	1,093 ..	5,085 ..	2,672
North-Western Province ..	659 ..	711 ..	784 ..	645
North-Central Province ..	301 ..	374 ..	594 ..	696
Province of Uva ..	733 ..	684 ..	594 ..	731
Province of Sabaragamuwa	824 ..	1,841 ..	2,221 ..	1,741
Railway Extensions ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	11
Total ..	6,184	8,161	13,545	9,748

The dispensary cases according to Provinces were as follows :—

Western ..	..	..	..	3,393
Central ..	..	..	..	2,942
Northern ..	..	..	..	866
Eastern ..	..	..	..	5,050
Southern ..	..	..	..	8,501
North-Western	..	..	..	12,254
North-Central	..	..	..	19,185
Uva ..	..	..	..	1,871
Sabaragamuwa	..	..	..	2,397

The three Itinerating Medical Officers were on parangi duty in the Southern Province, the Western Province, the Kuruwiti korale of Sabaragamuwa, and in the Eastern Province, and treated 16,815 cases. A large number of these patients attended a second and a third time, and a total number of 30,139 injections were given during the campaign in 1923.

The incidence of parangi is very large, the disease is scattered over all the Provinces, and a census showed that about 150,000 cases have to be dealt with.

Six Itinerating Medical Officers have been provided for in the 1923-24 Estimates, and it is hoped that in a few years all these patients will have received proper treatment.

PLAGUE AND QUARANTINE.

Plague.—230 cases of plague, with 209 deaths, occurred during the year, as against 136 cases and 131 deaths during 1922. The case mortality rates were 90·9 per cent. for all cases, as against the average of 93·8; 100 per cent. for septicæmic cases, which is the same as the average, and 87·2 per cent. for bubonic cases, as against the average of 87·1 per cent.

The bubonic case mortality was slightly higher than the average.

The majority of the cases occurred, as usual, between the ages of 15 and 25; 197 males and 33 females were attacked.

In Colombo the Sea street and Pettah areas were, as usual, the chief centres of infection, there being small localized outbreaks at Slave Island, Second Division, Maradana, and Silversmith street. Only a few sporadic cases occurred in other parts of the town.

Rat Plague.—29,312 rats were examined at the laboratory, 153 of which, or 0·52 per cent., were found to be infected, as against an infection rate of 0·17 in 1922.

Rat Destruction.—A total of 137,645 rats was accounted for during the year, of which 133,684 were trapped, 3,319 were killed by the Clayton fumigators and their bodies recovered, 642 were found dead prior to Claytonizing, 283 of which latter were in a mummified condition. In view of the fact that only a small proportion of the rat runs which are fumigated are opened up and searched after fumigation, the total number of rats killed in this manner must, it is believed, be very large. The number of poison baits placed was 1,693,285, of which 80,296 were either eaten or removed by rats. It is impossible to conjecture the number poisoned.

Prevention.—The usual preventive measures were carried out during the year.

Monthly Incidence of Plague Cases.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	Average, 1914 to 1922.	1923.
January	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
February	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
March	67	19	17	25	13	..	25	65	13	20	28
April	58	6	18	40	18	..	20	53	10	26	32
May	28	3	18	61	10	3	3	27	6	21	11
June	29	3	11	34	11	..	3	7	2	11	17
July	49	1	36	11	2	..	4	2	7	8	9
August	47	5	43	3	9	..	3	1	8	12	10
September	40	20	35	6	2	..	12	3	10	14	21
October	18	21	25	3	1	2	7	2	7	13	23
November	23	24	24	7	..	5	18	2	7	11	26
December	24	10	25	10	2	34	34	4	19	16	12
	26	24	25	6	2	24	78	9	33	18	13
Total for the year	413	139	291	207	70	87	235	184	136	195	230
Monthly mean	34.4	11.6	24.2	17.2	5.8	7.2	19.6	15.3	11.3	16.2	19.2

Plague.

Total cases	413	139	291	207	70	87	235	184	136	195	230
Total deaths	381	128	273	196	69	82	223	170	131	183	209
Septicæmic cases	247*	81*	159	124	41	50	93	70	57	102	66
Septicæmic deaths	246	80	159	124	41	50	93	70	57	102	66
Bubonic cases	166	58	132	83	29	37	142	114	79	93	164
Bubonic deaths	135	48	114	72	28	32	130	100	74	81	143
Total case mortality, per cent.	92.2	92.8	93.8	94.7	98.6	94.3	94.9	92.4	96.3	93.8	90.9
Septicæmic case mortality, per cent.	99.6	98.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Bubonic case mortality, per cent.	81.3	82.7	86.4	86.7	96.6	86.5	91.5	87.7	93.8	87.1	87.2

* The cases for 1914 and 1915 each includes one septicæmic recovery, but the diagnosis was not in either case confirmed bacteriologically, and may have been erroneous.

Plague, Smallpox, and Cholera, 1923.

<i>Plague.</i>		Cases.	Deaths.
Colombo town	..	230	209
Talaimannar	..	1	1
Wellampitiya	..	1	1
Total		232	211
<i>Smallpox.</i>			
Colombo town	..	3	1
Colombo Port from steamers	..	5	—
Province of Sabaragamuwa :—			
Rambukkana (continued from 1922)	..	4	1
Sitawaka estate	..	1	—
North-Western Province :—			
Yogiyana	..	1	—
Western Province			
Hokandara	..	1	—
Horetuduwa	..	19	1
Pamunugama	..	4	—
Kananwila	..	1	—
Willegoda	..	1	1
Central Province			
Kandy ..	..	70	9
Wattegama	..	27	5
Matale ..	..	10	—
Galagedara	..	5	—
Peradeniya	..	25	4
Uduwawala	..	3	2
Udangomuwa	..	3	—
Galaha ..	..	10	1
Dehianga	..	25	6
Gampola	..	1	—
Moolgama	..	15	4
Old Medagama estate	..	4	—
Talankanda estate	..	1	—
Lindula ..	..	1	—
		240	35
<i>Cholera.</i>			

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—At the Census of Ceylon taken on the night of March 18, 1921, the population, exclusive of the military and the shipping, was enumerated at 4,498,605 persons. Estimated on this basis the population on December 31, 1923, was 4,703,344, as against 4,621,145 at the end of 1922. The increase was due to an excess of 39,547 births over deaths, as well as to an excess of 42,652 immigrants over emigrants.

Migration.—The total number of arrivals during the year amounted to 190,512 persons, and the departures 147,860 persons. Of the arrivals, 169,607 persons were from India and 20,905 persons were from other countries. The departures included

DIAGRAM No 6 THE TOTAL POPULATION
- Ceylon -

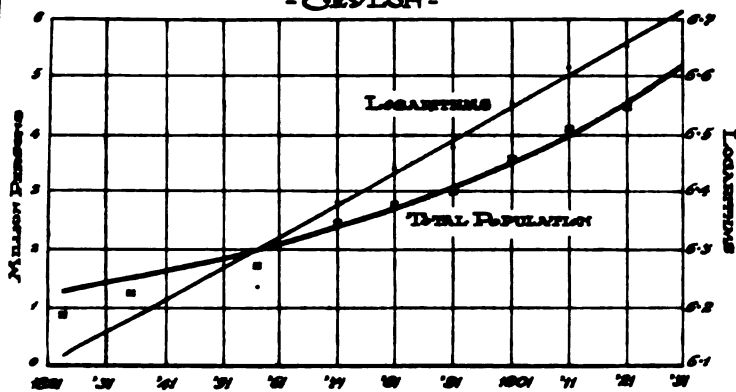


DIAGRAM No 7 BIRTH-, DEATH- & MARRIAGE-RATES
- Ceylon -

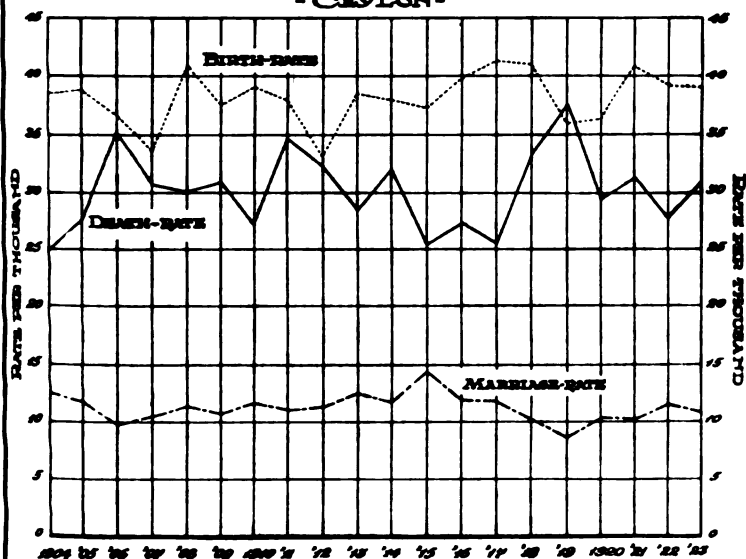
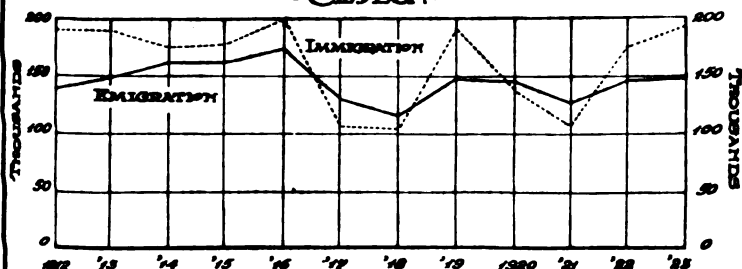


DIAGRAM No 8 ANNUAL IMMIGRATION & EMIGRATION
- Ceylon -



Statistical Department.

11-4-24

34.9, in the Western.

The proportion of male to female children born during the year was 1,038 to 1,000, as against 1,043 in the previous year.

amounted to 190,512 persons, and the departures 147,860 persons. Of the arrivals, 169,607 persons were from India and 20,905 persons were from other countries. The departures included

130,406 persons who left Ceylon for India and 17,454 persons who left for other countries. There was a noticeable increase in the excess of arrivals over departures during the year as compared with the previous one, the excess being 42,652 in 1923, as against 28,832 in 1922.

Race Constitution of the Population.—The population of the principal races of the Island as estimated to the end of the year and the proportion of each race per 1,000 of the total population are as follows :—

Races.	Estimated Population on December 31, 1923.	Proportion of each Race per 1,000 of the Total Population.
Europeans	9,370	2·0
Burghers and Eurasians	30,645	6·5
Sinhalese	3,118,434	663·0
Tamils	1,141,601	242·7
Moors	289,068	61·5
Malays	13,834	2·9
Others	26,316	5·6
Excess of immigrants over emigrants (exclusive of Europeans) since March 19, 1921	74,076	15·8

Marriages.—The number of marriages, exclusive of Muhammadan, registered in 1923 was 23,329, of which 18,492 were under the General Marriages Ordinance and 4,837 were under the Kandyan. The total number was 977 less than in 1922, but higher than in any of the preceding four years. The rate of persons married per 1,000 of the estimated population was equal to 10·8, as against 11·4 the rate in the previous year and the average for the past decade.

The number of Muhammadan marriages registered amounted to 838, as against 829 in the previous year.

Of the total number of marriages registered in the Island, the marriages in which one or both the parties have been residents of the proclaimed towns were estimated at 3,843. Of this number, 3,201 were marriages under the General Marriages Ordinance, 42 under the Kandyan, and 600 under the Muhammadan.

Births.—The number of births registered in 1923 amounted to 181,441, of which 92,409 were males and 89,032 were females. The total number, which showed an increase of 1,585 births over the previous year, corresponded to a rate of 39·1 per mille of the estimated population, as against 39·4 in 1922 and 38·5 the average for the past ten years. The highest birth-rate was 45·5 per mille in the Central Province, and the lowest, 34·9, in the Western.

The proportion of male to female children born during the year was 1,038 to 1,000, as against 1,043 in the previous year.

The births registered on the estates scheduled under the Medical Wants Ordinance numbered 26,921 (13,629 males and 13,292 females), and showed an increase of 2,394 over the previous year. The number registered during the year is also higher than that registered in any of the previous fifteen years.

In the 33 principal towns the number of births registered was 19,664, an increase of 642 over 1922. The birth-rate per mille of the urban population was 32·2, as against 31·5 in the previous year and 28·7 the average for the past decade. In the city of Colombo 7,106 births were registered during the year, and the corresponding rate per mille of the population was 28·4. In the previous year the rate was 27·8, and the average rate for the past decade was 24·2.

Deaths.—The deaths of 141,894 persons (71,577 males and 70,317 females) were registered in 1923. With three exceptions, viz., 1911, 1918, and 1919, the number of deaths registered during the year is the highest ever recorded. It has exceeded the previous year's figure by 15,074 deaths, and the past decennial average number by 10,047 deaths. The death-rate calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population was equal to 30·6, as against 27·8 in 1922. The highest death-rate was 58·5 in the North-Central Province, and the lowest was 25·0 in the Western. The increased mortality is shared by all the Provinces, the rates in each of them being higher than in the previous year.

The number of deaths registered on the estates scheduled under the Medical Wants Ordinance was 17,551 (8,530 males and 9,021 females). It exceeded the previous year's number by 2,787 deaths, but showed a considerable improvement over the average number of deaths in the past decade.

In the 33 principal towns the number of deaths registered was 23,360. Of this number, 18,801 were of town residents, and the corresponding standardized rate was 33·3 per mille, as against 29·9 in the previous year and 29·8 the average for the past ten years. In the city of Colombo the total number of deaths registered was 8,894, of which 7,664 were of residents. The standardized death-rate per mille of the population was 35·2, and was 5·0 per mille over the previous year. The average rate for the past decade was 28·0.

Infant Mortality.—The mortality of children under one year amounted to 38,467, and represented 27 per cent. of the total deaths. Calculated on the number of births registered during the year, the rate was 212 per 1,000—considerably higher than the rates in any of the three previous years. This year's rate has been exceeded only twice during the past ten years, viz., in 1914, when the mortality of infants was equal to 213 per 1,000 births, and in 1919, when it was 223.

On the estates the number of children who died under one year of age was 5,969, and corresponded to a third of the mortality at all ages. The death-rate calculated on the births registered during the year was equal to 222 per 1,000, as against 193 in the previous year and 203 in 1921. The average rate for the past ten years was 226.

The mortality of infants under one year in the 33 principal towns was 5,073, and corresponded to a rate of 258 per 1,000 births registered, and was 18 per 1,000 higher than in 1922. With the exception of the rate (259) recorded in 1919, this year's rate is the highest since 1913. The average rate of infant mortality in the towns for the past ten years was 242. In the city of Colombo the infant death-rate was 270 per 1,000 births, and is markedly above the previous year's rate (246) and the past decennial average rate (252).

Causes of Death.—The deaths registered from all causes during the year numbered 141,894. The highest number, as usual, was attributed to pyrexia (fever). Infantile convulsions and diarrhoea are also assigned as the cause of considerable mortality. The rate of mortality per million of the estimated population from certain selected causes registered in the Island in this and the previous year is shown below :—

	1922.	1923.
Pyrexia	4,422	5,024
Infantile convulsions	3,028	3,481
Diarrhoea	2,126	2,345
Pneumonia	1,640	1,921
Phthisis	681	715
Dysentery	551	716
Influenza	525	508
Malaria and malarial cachexia	449	573
Premature birth and congenital defects	363	432
Anchylostomiasis	410	400
Puerperal septicæmia	338	338
Bronchitis	290	293
Enteric fever	119	129
Cancer	101	93

It will be seen from the above that most of the principal diseases were the cause of more deaths than in the previous year, notable exceptions being influenza, anchylostomiasis, and cancer.

Influenza.—The number of deaths attributed to influenza during the year was 2,358 (1,204 males and 1,154 females), as against 2,395 in the previous year—the lowest figure recorded since the outbreak in 1918.

Pneumonia.—There were registered during the year 8,921 deaths (4,956 males and 3,965 females) from pneumonia, as against 7,479 in the previous year. The number is higher than in any of the previous three years.

Plague.—213 deaths (179 males and 34 females) were registered from plague during the year, showing an increase of as many as 70 over the previous year. In the city of Colombo, which is the chief stronghold of the disease, 205 deaths were registered (172 males and 33 females). Of the remaining 8 deaths, 3 were registered in Mannar District, 2 each in Negombo and Galle, and 1 in Colombo (outside the Municipal limits). Deaths from plague were spread over all months of the year, the incidence ranging from 30 in February to 8 in June.

Smallpox.—Thirty-four deaths (17 males and 17 females) were registered from smallpox, as against 40 in the previous year. Twenty-six deaths were registered in the first quarter of the year, 5 in the second, 2 in the third, and 1 in the fourth. In Kandy District 26 deaths were recorded, in Kegalla 4, in Kalutara 3, and in Colombo 1.

Cholera.—The deaths from cholera registered during the year numbered 8 (3 males and 5 females), as against 4 deaths in the previous year. All the deaths, excepting 1 in Matale, were registered in Kandy District.

Accidents and other Affections produced by External Causes.—Of the 1,948 total deaths under this heading, 1,424 were of males and 524 of females. In 1922 there were 1,982 deaths ascribed to this head. Of the total number of accidental deaths during the year, 439 were due to drowning and 411 to fall from trees, 172 of the former and 2 of the latter being females. Burns caused 181 deaths (91 males and 90 females). Of this, 28 deaths were due to the upsetting of bottle lamps. Snake-bite caused 263 deaths (175 males and 88 females), as against 249 in the previous year.

Suicide.—There were 207 cases of suicide (149 males and 58 females), as against 232 in 1922.

Homicide.—238 deaths (179 males and 59 females) were returned from homicide, as against 217 in 1922.

Executions.—Forty-two men underwent the extreme penalty of the law during the year. The number was 7 more than in the previous year.

Causes of Death on Estates.—Of the 17,551 deaths registered on estates no less than 3,558 were attributed to debility; that of infants under three months alone numbering 2,854. Pneumonia caused 2,932 deaths, and showed a considerable increase over the previous year. 1,554 deaths were registered from infantile convulsions, 1,248 from dysentery, 1,099 from anchylostomiasis, and 972 from diarrhœa. Under premature birth and congenital defects were classified 686 deaths, under influenza 477, under bronchitis 411, under malaria and malarial cachexia 411, and under phthisis 278. There were 24 cases of suicide and 12 of homicide, as against 34 and 16, respectively, in the previous year.

Causes of Death in Towns.—The deaths registered from all causes in the principal towns numbered 23,360. Pneumonia, as usual, caused the highest mortality, there having been 3,485 deaths, as against 2,965 in 1922. 1,745 deaths were attributed to convulsions, 1,586 to debility of infants, 1,378 to phthisis, and 1,263 to malaria and malarial cachexia. There were 1,069 deaths from diarrhœa, 1,043 from dysentery, 860 from enteritis, 766 from anchylostomiasis, and 698 from Bright's disease and nephritis. Deaths from enteric fever numbered 417, from plague 208, from influenza 441, from cancer 130, from bronchitis 443, and from puerperal septicæmia 293. Accidental deaths numbered 380. There were 42 deaths from suicide and 80 from homicide.

XI.—Law and Justice.

LEGISLATION, 1923.

TWENTY Ordinances were passed during the year. Of these, the more important are—

- No. 1, relating to Labour.—The law was amended to give statutory effect to certain conditions laid down by the Indian Government under the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, as being essential before allowing emigration of labourers to this country ;
- No. 4, relating to Prisons, to allow of criminal prisoners not subject to hard labour being employed, and to introduce a form of imprisonment corresponding to the Second Division in England ;
- No. 6, relating to Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children, to modify, in their application to this country, the terms of the conventions adopted by the International Labour Organization of the League of Nations, at Washington on November 28, 1919, and at Genoa on July 9, 1920 ;
- Nos. 7 and 8, relating to the issue of Treasury Bills in London and in the Colony, respectively ;
- No. 10, relating to Telegraphy, with a view to providing for the recent developments in wireless telegraphy and telephony ;
- No. 18, relating to Married Women's Property, to bring the law on the subject into practical accord with the law of England ;
- No. 20, to provide for requiring passports of persons entering or departing from the Colony.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The work of the Supreme Court falls into two main divisions. The first of these is the decision of appeals, and the second is the trial of serious crimes under its original jurisdiction on circuit. The trial of these cases on circuit constitute the first charge upon the time of the court. The surplus, when these are disposed of, represents the time available for appeals.

Appeal Jurisdiction.

The appeal work may be classified under two main divisions. The first consists of (A) District Court Criminal Appeals ; (B) Police Court Appeals ; (C) Court of Requests Appeals. These are generally referred to as minor appeals. They are disposed of by a single Judge, and the rate of disposal during the year was 7·6 per day. This is somewhat below what used to be considered the average rate, which was 9 per day. The other main division consists of what are generally described as major appeals, namely, appeals from District Courts. These are subdivided into interlocutories and final appeals, and the interlocutories are again subdivided into special appeals which deal with points arising in partition cases, testamentary cases, and other matters, where the appeal is often in the nature of a final appeal, and ordinary interlocutory appeals on points of procedure. These appeals require a court of at least two Judges, and the average rate at which they are disposed of is about 3 per day. The year's working discloses a position of equilibrium. During the year 1,253 minor appeals were received, and 1,262* were disposed of. 698 major appeals were received, and 699 were disposed of. The total number of appeals decided was thus 1,961. But, in addition to these appeals, the court and the Judges have to deal with a great number of incidental applications and petitions. The figures with regard to these are as follows :—

Applications for leave to appeal in Court of Requests cases		
disposed of during the year	..	102
Applications for sole testamentary jurisdiction	..	141
Miscellaneous applications	..	461
<i>Habeas corpus</i> petitions	..	267
Other petitions	..	363
		1,334

* Including a number of appeals standing over from previous year.

The disposal of the civil work of the court is shown in the following table :—

Disposal of Work for the Year ending December 31, 1923.

(1) Number of major appeals disposed of during the year 1923—

(1) Finals—				
Money	..	..	213	} 497
Land	..	..	284	
(2) Interlocutories—				
Ordinary	..	..	108	} 202
Special	..	..	94	
			<hr/>	699

(2) Number of minor appeals disposed of during the year 1923—

(1) District Court criminal ..	..	116
(2) Police Courts ..	..	792
(3) Courts of Requests ..	..	354
		1,262

An important part of the appeal work of the court consists of the decision of those cases which are referred to courts of three or four Judges; generally, though not quite accurately, described as Full Court cases. The number of these cases referred during the year was 15, and the number of days occupied in their consideration was 12.

The results of the appeals decided by the court are shown in the following table :—

Note.—Including 3 references under section 355 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 4 courts of five Judges, 5 courts of three Judges.

Major Appeals.

	Appeals Allowed.	Appeals Dismissed.	Appeals made the Subject of Intermediate Orders.	Total.
Finals ..	80	323	94	497
Interlocutories ..	69	86	47	202
				699

Minor Appeals.

District Court	Appeals Allowed.	Appeals Dismissed.	Appeals made the Subject of Intermediate Orders.	Total.
criminal ..	22	70	24	116
Police Courts ..	220	410	162	792
Courts of Requests	86	213	55	354
				1,262

Trials on Circuit.

The total number of cases tried at criminal sessions throughout the Colony during the year 1923 was 325, and the days consumed in disposing of them were 411. The comparative figures for the last few years are as follows :—

	Cases Disposed of.	Days Consumed.
1920 ..	338	417
1921 ..	402	445
1922 ..	296	357
1923 ..	325	411

These cases were distributed among the circuits in the following proportions :—

Western Circuit	..	..	..	133
Midland Circuit	..	..	..	102
Southern Circuit	..	..	..	68
Northern Circuit	..	..	..	14
Eastern Circuit	..	..	..	8
				<hr/>
				325
				<hr/>

The cases committed to the Supreme Court consists usually of crime of the following categories:—

- (1) Murder.
- (2) Attempted murder.
- (3) Grave cases of grievous hurt.
- (4) Gang robbery.
- (5) Offences against women and children.
- (6) Occasional cases of forgery, and various forms of fraud.

Members of the criminal classes very seldom come before the Supreme Court, all habitual criminals being dealt with by the District Courts.

The most striking feature of the Supreme Court criminal sessions is undoubtedly the large preponderance of cases of homicide. Out of 325 cases dealt with by the court during the year 1923, no less than 212 or 65·23 per cent. consisted of cases of homicide of some form or other and attempted murder.

The significance of these figures will be realized from the following percentages:—The number of cases of homicide actually reported to the police during the year 1923 was 189. (The comparative figures for the last few years are as follows: 1922, 202; 1921, 221.) The number of indictments presented was 153. Thus (allowing for the fact that homicides are committed in one year and tried in another) the percentage of cases in which the alleged murderer or killer was brought before the court was 80·9 per cent. Of these trials, 37·25 per cent. ended in a conviction for murder, 36·6 per cent. ended in a conviction for some minor offence, and 26·14 per cent. in an acquittal.

There is at first sight a striking difference between the Sinhalese and the Tamil Provinces. Out of the 153 cases, 137 or 89·5 per cent. of the whole were tried on the Western, Southern, and Midland Circuits. Only 16 or 10·5 per cent. of the whole were tried on the Northern and Eastern Circuits. But this difference is more apparent than real. The proportion of cases to the population is 1 per 28,700 persons in the first case, and 1 per 35,500 persons in the second case.

The result of these cases for the whole Colony is shown in the following table :—

Murder Cases.

	Midland.		Western.		Southern.		Northern and Eastern.		Total.	
	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
Number of cases ..	42	..	64	..	31	..	16	..	153	..
Number of cases in which all or any of the accused were convicted of murder	16	..	28	..	11	..	2	..	57	..
Number of cases in which none of the accused were convicted of murder, but in which all or any were convicted of some minor charge ..	16	..	19	..	12	..	9	..	56	..
Number of cases in which all the accused were acquitted ..	10	..	17	..	8	..	5	..	40	..

The prevalence of murder is so marked a feature in the local life of Ceylon, that it may be of interest to make a closer analysis of these cases.

The total number of cases in which capital sentences were reported to the Governor by the Judges in 1923 was 60. Excluding 8 cases of insanity (a very high proportion), 5 cases of infanticide, 3 cases of mere brutal degeneracy, 1 case of hired assassination, and 5 cases of too accidental and miscellaneous a character to be specially classified, there remain 38 cases of ordinary murders arising out of quarrels. No less than 17 of these or nearly 45 per cent. may be described as domestic murders, arising out of the relationship of husband and wife, or of couples united in a less regular relationship. These cases, year after year, form a conspicuous standing feature of the work of the Assizes. A man stabs his wife because, owing to estrangement she takes refuge with her family or refuses to move to another village, or does not cook his meals to his satisfaction, or out of morbid jealousy, because, often without any foundation, he suspects her of irregular intimacy. A man stabs his mistress because she desires to discontinue the relationship. Sometimes the person murdered is some member of the woman's family who intervenes. In one case in 1923 a man killed two women, his wife and his mistress, because he was tired of both. One case classified as domestic murder was of a special character. A man killed his daughter because she went to live with a low caste man and refused to return home. The weapon in all these cases is without exception a knife. Where the relationship is an irregular one, the murder is often committed with the grossest barbarity. The act seems to be the act, not of a civilized man, but of a demented savage. In these cases the knife is often brought ready for the murder in case the woman should decline to obey the man's summons. It would appear that a high proportion of murders of this description are committed, not by villagers, who have a home in the village and live upon their lands, but by landless and homeless men—coolies, casual labourers, and the like.

With regard to the remaining 21 murders, 8 were cases of premeditation, where the murderer has been brooding on some quarrel, wrong, or insult. In some of these cases the weapon was a firearm and not a knife. Five cases were cases of quarrels arising out of disputes as to property, 8 were the result of sudden quarrels arising from some trivial cause or from pre-existing grievances. Practically in every case the weapon was a knife. On the other hand, it may be said that practically in every case the knife so used was not a weapon carried for the purpose of offence, but was a clasp knife, a table knife, or a knife carried for some legitimate purpose. It would appear that among the

population of this country there has not been developed that strong instinctive repugnance to the use of the knife in quarrels which exists in England. The villager, when excited, thinks of the knife as the natural instrument to express his resentment. The moral would appear to be that every possible means should be used to bring home to the villager the dangerous and reprehensible character of his action even when the use of the knife results in only a trivial wound.

Frequent as murders are in Ceylon, their frequency is nothing to that which obtains in the United States of America. In that country there is one person murdered to every 12,000 of the population. In Ceylon the figures are 1 person in 22,000. In England the figures are 1 in 412,000.

With regard to crimes other than murder and attempted murder, the most serious crime with which the Supreme Court has to deal is that of gang robbery. Only 4 cases came before the court in the year 1923, and 3 ended in convictions. It is, however, the practice to commit very many of these cases for trial by District Courts. It is by no means certain that this is the most expedient method of dealing with them, since there is no crime which requires a more rigorous and deterrent sentence.

With regard to other crimes, one that often attracts notice is infanticide. It is a comparatively rare occurrence in this country. Only 6 cases of this kind were tried during the year 1923.

With regard to offences against women and children, the figures are as follows :—

Western Circuit	..	..	..	12
Southern Circuit	..	..	..	14
Midland Circuit	..	..	..	13
Northern and Eastern Circuits	..	..	..	1
				<hr/>
				40
				<hr/>

These figures cannot be considered very high, regard being had to the population. They are certainly not more numerous than similar cases on any circuit in any English industrial district.

Court Inspection.

During the year 1922 a complete system for the inspection of Police Courts and Courts of Requests was worked out, and during the year 1923 the following courts were inspected:—

Chilaw	..	{ District Court.
		{ Police Court.
		{ Court of Requests.

Tangalla	..	{ Court of Requests. Police Court.
Puttalam	..	{ District Court. Court of Requests. Police Court.
Matara	..	{ Court of Requests. Police Court.
Galle	..	Police Court.

It is much to be desired that all the minor courts of the Colony should be regularly visited, but at present the calls upon the time of the court do not allow of such a complete visitation. A scheme of District Court inspection remains to be worked out.

DISTRICT COURTS, POLICE COURTS, AND COURTS OF REQUESTS.

Criminal.

There are 36 Police Courts in the Island and 3 Municipal Courts. 72,914 cases were instituted in the Police Courts during the year 1923, and 73,259 persons were brought up before the Magistrates on summonses or warrants. Of these, 43,690 persons were convicted, 27,531 persons acquitted or discharged, and 2,038 persons committed to superior courts.

There are 21 District Courts in the Island having criminal jurisdiction. During the year under review 1,194 cases were committed before such courts, and 1,753 persons were charged. Of the persons committed for trial, 513 were acquitted, 1,174 convicted, and 22 persons dealt with otherwise. On December 31, 1923, there were still 44 persons awaiting trial.

Civil.

In the 21 District Courts of the Island there were pending on January 1, 1923, 10,519 suits. 11,193 suits were instituted during the year, making a total of 21,712 suits. Of these, 3,562 were disposed of on evidence, 6,752 were otherwise disposed of, *i.e.*, on admissions, &c., making a total of 10,314, and on December 31, 1923, there were 11,398 suits awaiting disposal.

In the 41 Courts of Requests in the Island there were pending on January 1, 1923, 6,169 suits. 26,242 suits were instituted during the year, making a total of 32,411 suits. Of these, 4,369 suits were disposed of on evidence, 21,041 were otherwise disposed of, *i.e.*, by default, &c., making a total of 25,410, and on December 31, 1923, there were 7,001 suits pending.

POLICE.

Strength of the Force, &c.

Strength.—The strength of the Force on December 31, 1923, provided for in the Estimates was—

Inspector-General	..	..	1
Deputy Inspectors-General	..	..	2
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents	..	..	32
Probationers	..	..	3
Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	..	..	170
Sergeant-Major	..	..	1
Native Sergeants	..	..	352
Native Constables	..	..	2,448

European Police Force.

Inspectors	..	..	1
Sub-Inspectors	..	..	3
Sergeants	..	..	30
Total of all ranks			3,043

The total strength of the Force was short by 44 on December 31, 1923. The Force was kept up to the sanctioned strength of sergeants and constables for the greater part of the year, the actual strength of sergeants and constables on December 31, 1923, being only 21 short.

Expenditure.—The cost of the Force was Rs. 2,973,695 approximately. The cost of police per man is Rs. 977·22 per annum, the cost per head of population is 66 cents or 11d.

Crime.

Crime committed during the Year.—There was a further decrease in crime in 1923 as compared with previous years, as the following statement shows:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
Homicide ..	221	202	189
Attempted homicide ..	43	58	51
Grievous hurt ..	714	718	730
Hurt with dangerous weapons ..	1,025	1,097	921
Burglary ..	1,098	1,682	1,681
Theft of cattle and prædial produce ..	1,036	810	605
Other offences ..	2,693	2,478	2,320
Total ..	7,640	7,045	6,497

The following table shows under separate heads "Offences against the Person," which are not directly preventable by the police, and "Offences against Property," which are classed as "Preventable Crime." The police cannot prevent offences against the person in villages :—

Year.	Total Crime.	Offences against the Person.	Preventable Crime (Offences against Property).	Offences against the State.
1919 ..	8,577 ..	2,045 ..	6,506 ..	26
1920 ..	8,189 ..	2,107 ..	6,055 ..	27
1921 ..	7,640 ..	2,122 ..	5,494 ..	24
1922 ..	7,045 ..	2,212 ..	4,805 ..	28
1923 ..	6,497 ..	2,020 ..	4,444 ..	33

It will be seen that whereas the number of offences against the person has remained at about the same figure in the region of 2,100 since 1919, there has been a steady decrease over the same period in offences against property. This steady decrease in preventable crime is a satisfactory feature. The decrease under the head "Theft of Cattle and Prædial Produce" is most marked, 1,068 cases in 1920 and 605 cases in 1923. The decrease is noticeable all over the Island and particularly in the Sabaragamuwa, the Southern, and Uva Provinces.

It has been clearly shown that as a Province or district is opened up by the extension of the railway, roads, telegraphs, telephone, and increased communication generally, the headmen who can perfectly well control their own villages cannot deal unaided with bad characters from other districts, of whom they have no knowledge. Hence there is usually an increase in crime, and the call comes from the Government Agent and the people for the establishment of police stations to assist the local authorities.

It was to secure the better investigation of cases of serious crime that in 1906 police were introduced in Provinces which had become criminal owing to the opening up and development of the country. The only Provinces into which police have not been introduced are the Northern, Eastern, and North-Central. In these Provinces police are only established in the principal towns, and certain quarantine duty police in the Northern Province ports.

The establishment of police in the Provinces has in no way lessened the part played by the headmen in maintaining order and in reducing crime. The police do not take the place of, but rather supplement the work of, the headmen, and a sound system of co-operation and a good understanding between the two are the most important points in provincial police administration.

In many districts the police regularly attend the monthly division days at which the chief headmen appear before the Government Agent or his Assistant. At these meetings the state of crime in the locality, the behaviour of dangerous criminals and bad characters, and the possibility of tracing absconders are discussed. The headmen are told of any new points which have come to light effecting the work of the district and on what new lines the police are working. Instances of good work by headmen of the district are announced.

Distribution of Crime. — The following table shows the distribution of crime throughout the Island:—

Province.	Homicide.	Attempted Homicide.	Grievous Hurt.	Hurt with Dangerous Weapons.	Burglary.	Theft of Cattle and Prædial Produce.	Other Offences.	Total.
Western ..	36 ..	14 ..	192 ..	259 ..	474 ..	197 ..	363 ..	1,535
Southern ..	43 ..	17 ..	131 ..	214 ..	309 ..	168 ..	265 ..	1,147
North-Western ..	42 ..	8 ..	81 ..	100 ..	217 ..	101 ..	329 ..	878
Central ..	12 ..	2 ..	87 ..	98 ..	238 ..	19 ..	315 ..	771
Sabaragamuwa ..	20 ..	5 ..	48 ..	73 ..	195 ..	50 ..	213 ..	604
Colombo City ..	8 ..	— ..	75 ..	72 ..	74 ..	3 ..	320 ..	552
Northern ..	12 ..	1 ..	66 ..	54 ..	59 ..	23 ..	279 ..	494
Uva ..	5 ..	4 ..	20 ..	15 ..	53 ..	23 ..	123 ..	243
Eastern ..	6 ..	— ..	20 ..	30 ..	33 ..	14 ..	59 ..	162
North-Central ..	5 ..	— ..	10 ..	6 ..	29 ..	7 ..	54 ..	111
Total ..	189	51	730	921	1,681	605	2,320	6,497

Comparing the number of serious offences committed with the population as given in the 1921 Census report, it is found that—

In Colombo City there is 1 case of crime to every 465 persons.

In the North-Western Province do. 560 do.

In the Southern Province do. 585 do.

In the Western Province do. 645 do.

In the Northern Province do. 759 do.

In the Province of Sabaragamuwa do. 781 do.

In the North-Central Province do. 870 do.

In the Central Province do. 931 do.

In the Province of Uva do. 962 do.

In the Eastern Province do. 1,190 do.

The proportion of serious crime to population in Ceylon is 1 case of serious crime per annum to every 692 persons. The proportion of murders to population is 4·2 per 100,000 persons, compared with 4 per 100,000 in England and Wales. In 49 cases women were murdered.

Crime in the Colombo city and the Eastern Province was normal. In every other Province there was a decrease of crime, viz., Province of Uva, 59 per cent. ; North-Central, 22 per cent. ; Southern, 11 per cent. ; Sabaragamuwa, 10 per cent. ; North-Western, 9 per cent. ; Western, Central, and Northern, 3 per cent.

The very noticeable decrease in the Province of Uva can be attributed to the special action taken to deal with crime in 1921, by increasing the strength of police in the Province and by opening new stations. In 1921 Uva headed the list of Provinces placed in order of proportion of serious crime to population, with 1 case of crime to every 425 persons. The proportion in 1923 has been reduced to 1 case of crime to every 962 persons.

The Province of Uva constitutes a striking example of the effect of opening up a Province by railway, and equally well illustrates the value of introducing regular police to deal with the consequent increase of crime.

The most criminal districts of the Island in 1923 were—

Colombo City.
The Chilaw District.
The Kalutara District.
The Matara District.
The Tangalla District.

The Kurunegala District.
The Galle District.
The Matale District.
The Colombo District, Western Province.
The Panadure District.

Action taken to deal with Crime : (1) Means of Communication.—Funds were provided for extending the telephone connection between outlying police stations and the headquarters of the Province or district. By the opening of a telegraph office at Talaimannar telegrams for the Talaimannar police now go direct to the Talaimannar telegraph office instead of being telephoned through from Mannar.

(2) An additional police station was opened in Badulla in the Province of Uva to deal with crime on the outskirts of the town, and the strength of the Force in Uva has been specially increased.

(3) *Gang Robberies.*—Special attention was paid to the crime of gang robbery, a most deliberate and premeditated form of crime still occurring in the North-Western and Southern Provinces. The number of cases in the North-Western Province was reduced from 21 in 1922 to 11 in 1923. In other Provinces it is almost unknown, or very rare. In most cases it appeared that persons belonging to the particular locality supplied information and assisted in the crime, but the real robbers came from a distance. The method of tracing the offenders which has proved most effective is that of tracing the disposal of any property stolen. This necessitates a system of co-operation between stations and districts adjoining that in which the robbery has occurred. The system has been successfully tried in both the Kurunegala and Galle Districts.

(4) *Tea Thefts.*—Special measures were taken to deal with the increased number of tea thefts due to the high prices offered for tea. Notices were posted in prominent places setting forth the provisions and penalties of Ordinance No. 38 of 1917 ("The

Protection of Produce Ordinance”), and the provision of this Ordinance was enforced which makes it an offence for any person to be in possession of tea leaf, seed, &c., under circumstances that there is reason to suspect that the same is not honestly in his possession, unless he is able to give to the court before whom he is tried a satisfactory account of his possession thereof. These measures have had a very noticeable effect.

(5) *Close Supervision of Dangerous Characters.* — Special attention is being given to the close supervision of dangerous characters as opposed to the general supervision of all “Re-convicted Criminals.”

Beside the re-convicted criminal, there is another class of persons who require to be specially watched by the police. These may have only one conviction, but the fact that they show system and method in committing crime and a distinctly criminal mind indicates the need of special supervision.

The worst criminals of both these classes are regarded as dangerous criminals. They are specially watched by the police. The majority have been photographed.

The great majority of cases of crime, particularly burglary and fowl stealing, are committed, not by several persons, but by a few dangerous criminals known to the police, and a great deal can be done to prevent crime by marking down and supervising these dangerous criminals from the moment they leave jail. This has been most clearly proved in Colombo in the last three years on two occasions. During the last three years there have been two epidemics of burglary in Colombo. In 1921 the criminal concerned was Endoris, a man with nine convictions for similar offences. On his arrest the burglaries ceased. In 1923 25 cases of theft of silver articles were reported from the residential quarters of Colombo between July 27 and November 8. A dangerous criminal named Raphiel, with five previous convictions, was caught red-handed on November 8. With his arrest there were no further cases, and there is no doubt that he and his confederates were responsible for every one of the 25 cases.

(6) *Co-operation by the Railway Staff and by the Public.* — The Railway staff have been particularly helpful in bringing to notice and detecting persons committing theft from passengers on the Railway, and 19 cases have been brought to the notice of the General Manager in which observation and prompt action by an officer of the Railway staff had resulted in the detection of crime. The officers were in each case rewarded.

There were several instances during the year of members of the public rendering assistance to the Police in the prevention of crime and in saving life.

(7) *Prevention of Crime.*—Special attention has been given to the training of all ranks in the most modern and effective methods in order to supply a counter thrust to the ingenuity of the professional criminal, who is profiting by the improved educational facilities now open to him.

During 1923 the Criminal Investigation Department dealt with over 60 cases of forgery and cheating, in many of which considerable ingenuity was displayed by the forgers, and the increasing skill of the Ceylon criminal was clearly shown. Such offences are usually committed by men of some education.

Further Action necessary to deal with Crime.

Youthful Offenders.—It has been mentioned in previous reports that one of the greatest needs of the Colony is the treatment of youthful offenders on sound practical lines in order to prevent a youth becoming an habitual criminal. Ceylon offers an exceptional field for such work. The volume of crime is very heavy.

The record of criminals in Ceylon shows that a very large proportion of the habitual criminals come from the towns, and their history almost invariably starts with petty thefts in the streets committed at the age of 15 to 21.

The existing Reformatory at Maggona deals only with boys under 16, and there is evident need for an institution which will take charge of offenders aged from 16 to 21, and give them a chance of becoming decent citizens. Two schemes for such an institution have been put forward and are being considered by Government. One is for a Borstal Institution at Urugasmanhandiya in the Southern Province, the other, originating from the Salvation Army, is for an industrial colony at Medagama in the Kalutara District. If funds can be made available it is possible that the two schemes may be run independently: the Borstal Institution dealing with youths committed by an order of court, and the Salvation Army colony active with youths who may be persuaded voluntarily to join the colony and learn a trade.

Towards the end of 1922 a start was made by the police in Colombo to improve the surroundings and lives of the boys in the streets of Colombo by giving them an interest in games. It has been possible in this way, in the course of 1923, to get in touch with some 250 boys. Means of recreation have been provided for them, and every encouragement given them to play games and take an interest in healthy sport. Those of school age have been assisted in attending school by being provided

with books, and those urgently in need of clothes have been provided with them. In many cases also employment has been obtained for these boys.

It has been possible, with the aid of subscription from the public, to start a Street Boys' Club in the Pettah, the most crowded and criminal district of Colombo. There are 70 members of this club ranging in age from 7 to 17. Forty-five are absolutely homeless, and except for this club have no interest in life other than the fight for existence on the streets. The club has become their home, and they sleep there. Free medical attendance and medicine have been voluntarily given. The club is run by a committee of which the boys appoint their own members.

Similar work has been done in the larger towns in the Provinces. In the Southern Province, for instance, by the co-operation of the headmen and police an industrial school for boys under 17 has been started at Welitara, which has always been a particularly criminal village. The school is now flourishing, and appears to be having an excellent effect on crime in the district generally.

Supervision of Aliens, Strangers, and Travellers.

In addition to the ordinary work of the police, certain extra duties, initiated shortly after the outbreak of war in 1914, have been continued throughout 1923. Of these, the most important are—

- (1) Enforcement of the order prohibiting any person from embarking on any ship in the harbour unless he is in possession of a valid passport and steamer ticket, or holds a special permit from the Chairman, Plague Committee, to do so. All persons attempting to board a vessel are checked by the Harbour Police.
- (2) Examining and stamping on board ship the passports of all steamer passengers who wish to land in Colombo.
- (3) Registering and supervising alien commercial travellers and missionaries arriving in the Colony by steamer or from India *viâ* Talaimannar.
- (4) The general surveillance of all other aliens arriving in the Colony and of all aliens resident in the Colony.

Situated as Ceylon is on the main route to the Far East and Australia and in close proximity to India a very large number of persons pass through Colombo, and the Ceylon Police are

constantly being requested by police of other countries to mark down, arrest, or report on the movements of an undesirable or fugitive offender who is believed to be on his way to India, Australia, or the Far East. A complete list of all persons disembarking from or embarking on ships in the ports of Ceylon is kept, together with a record of all persons stopping at hotels, boarding houses, and resthouses, so that any information required can be given at short notice. In this way the Criminal Investigation Department of Ceylon acts as a clearing house, and does a considerable amount of work for the police of other countries.

During the year 133 destitute persons or undesirable aliens were prevented from entering the Island by the police at Colombo Harbour and Talaimannar.

Motor Traffic.

The system of control of all motor vehicles by one registering authority (Inspector-General of Police) continues, and the examination of applicants for and the issue of licenses to drive motor vehicles are being carried out by the police.

The whole of the Vehicles Ordinance and Motor By-laws are now under revision.

There are 5,244 registered motor cars and 2,044 motor cycles in the Island. Of these, 481 motor cars are registered for trade purposes and 1,247 as public conveyances. There are in the Island 459 motor buses for conveying passengers for hire; the number of motor buses is on the increase, the number in 1922 being 217. The use of motor buses is growing, and is particularly appreciated on routes not served by the railway and on roads where a quicker and simpler journey can be made by bus than by train. The number of motor vehicles in the Island has increased from 745 in 1911 to 7,288 in 1923. There are 7,787 persons licensed to drive motor vehicles.

The consideration of the best and most practicable means of making the roads safer for motorists and foot passengers has been receiving great attention. The authorities in England seem agreed that it is not the possibly timid person learning to drive who is the greatest danger on the road, but the careless and inconsiderate driver who, while quite efficient, is reckless as to the speed at which he drives and the risks he takes. The common object of owners and drivers of motor vehicles, road authorities, and police officers must be to try and secure greater safety on the road for motor vehicles and foot passengers.

It was therefore decided that the most practical steps to secure greater safety on the roads in Ceylon would be—

- (a) The improvement of roads where the alignment or insufficient width of the thoroughfare is a danger to motor traffic, and the removal of obstructions to clear the view at dangerous places ;
- (b) The provision of pavements for foot passengers in towns wherever possible ;
- (c) To bring to the notice of drivers certain simple rules for safe driving ;
- (d) To press for deterrent punishment in all cases where reckless driving is proved.

Of these, the last, dealing with the reckless driver, is the most important.

The police in every district have been instructed to bring to the notice of the authorities thoroughfares which need improvement to make them safe for motor traffic, and places on the road where obstruction of view renders the road dangerous.

Hints for safe driving are now printed in every driving license, and all examiners have been requested to test applicants for licenses on these points when examining them. With these hints printed in the driver's license, which the driver is always required to have with him when driving, there will be no excuse for a driver who neglects to take notice of these hints, and who causes damage or injury as a result of his negligence. Further, the Magistrate and the courts will see, when they are inquiring into a case in which damage or injury has been caused by the neglect of these simple rules, that the driver had these hints prominently brought to his notice and neglected to observe them.

There were 1,685 prosecutions under the Motor By-laws. Of these, 189 were for reckless or careless driving. The number of serious accidents caused by motor vehicles throughout the Island was 79, of which 36 proved fatal.

Training.

Special attention has been given to the training of all men of the Force in the duty of preserving order and in the prevention and investigation of crime, and from the start the training is made as practical as possible. Before being posted to a station every recruit receives practical instruction in the streets, under supervision, in " Point Duty " and the control of traffic. All ranks are instructed in matters affecting their particular district on first arrival in that district.

Any matter of general interest and any case from which there is some point to be learned is published in the weekly "Police Gazette." All ranks of the Force are instructed on these points, and orders relating to new Ordinances, by-laws, and regulations are explained to them, so that training and instruction continues throughout a man's service. All recruits who are unable to swim on joining receive instruction in swimming.

In many districts voluntary classes have been formed at which constables learn to speak, read, and write English. A knowledge of English in a Colony in which English is so much spoken, and through which passengers are continually travelling, is of great value to a constable both in his work and as a qualification for promotion.

Miscellaneous.

First Aid to the Injured.—The Ceylon Police Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was increased from 132 members when the corps was formed in 1912 to 797 in 1923. Every police station in the Island is equipped with a stretcher and first aid box and hamper containing all necessary first aid materials.

Field dressings, the same as those supplied to the Army on active service during the war, have been issued to officers to be carried on their cars or motor cycles. Wherever an officer is, he may suddenly come across an accident, and with these dressings he can at least bandage some of the injuries and so effect temporary relief until the injured person can be attended to by a doctor.

Until recently first aid instruction and practice had been carried out on the lines of the correct treatment of a known injury. The instruction has now been made more progressive. An injured man found in the streets or brought to the police station is often unconscious and unable to say or indicate where he has hurt himself, and before first aid can be rendered the police officer must first diagnose the case and decide for himself what injury or injuries the patient is suffering from. It is the diagnosis of an injury which is of the first importance before movement or treatment is attempted ; to the layman diagnosis presents the greatest difficulty.

Great attention has also been paid to instruction in methods of improvising first aid materials from any article at hand at the place of accident. A police officer called upon to render first aid will not always have a first aid hamper with him, yet a lot can be done for the patient by improvising splints, pads, and bandages from any articles which are available if the police officer has been trained to make the best use of what he can find in the street, jungle, house, or boutique, as the case may be.

Instruction in the method of rendering artificial respiration to drowned persons has been extended to every member of the Force, and is not confined to men holding first aid certificates.

Many instances in which life was saved by the prompt rendering of first aid in cases of accident and drowning were reported during the year.

Institutions of the Force include a Pensioners' Corps, which secures employment for men no longer physically fit for active police duty, and a Boy's Brigade in which sons of police officers are trained from the age of 5 upwards.

The object of the Pensioners' Corps is to assist police pensioners to supplement their pension by obtaining posts as watchers, doorkeepers, &c., on retirement, and to assist the public by providing men of a reliable type with long service under Government for posts which require a steady and reliable man. The pensioners are given a uniform by Government, and the pay they receive in private employ is of great assistance to them. These men have a pension to lose if they commit an offence of dishonesty, and this fact and their long service and training in the Force make their service valuable to the private employer.

Pensioners of the Corps not in private employ are called out to assist the police at times of outbreak of plague, cholera, &c., when they are particularly helpful in guarding and watching houses and contacts. When so called out they are paid for the number of days so employed. There are 238 pensioners in the Corps.

The object of the Boys' Brigade is to provide healthy exercise and recreation for the sons of police officers and pensioners, and to educate and train them to become useful men. Between the ages of 5 and 13 the boy is put into uniform, and not only attends school, but is drilled in squad drill, physical exercise, and boxing. In school he is taught reading, writing, and general knowledge which will fit him for employment. On parades, in boxing, and games he is taught discipline, kept hard and fit, taught to keep his temper, and to keep himself and his uniform clean. Between the ages of 14 and 17 he continues to attend school and parade for half the day, and during the other half he attends a police office as a messenger, working under the eye of an officer, for which he is paid from Rs. 7·50 a month at the age of 14 to Rs. 15 a month at the age of 17. At this stage the boy learns regular and punctual attendance for duty, good manners, and activity, and the importance of steady work if he is to get on in the world, at the age of 18 he is eligible for enlistment in the Force. There are 67 senior and 399 junior boys in the Brigade.

Sixteen boys of the Brigade were enlisted during the year, and there are now 79 men in the Force who started in the Brigade, 6 of whom have already been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Sixty-two of these men can read and write English. It is of interest to note that of these 79 men, the great-grandfathers of 9 were in the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, the grandfathers of 19 were in the Force, the fathers of 29 were in the Force, showing that service in the police has become a family tradition.

The Kandy Police Boys' School was taken over by the Education Department from the beginning of the year in the same way as the Dépôt and Slave Island Boys' Schools in Colombo were taken over in 1921.

Justices of the Peace.—Justices of the Peace have continued to render good service, not only in time of emergency, but in visiting police stations, attending drills, and in supervising musketry. The fact of a resident of standing being in a position to take charge of any station and direct action in the event of any disturbance, fire, serious accident, or any other calamity is of value, not only to the police, but also to the owners of property, shopkeepers, householders, and the public generally. In a large and scattered district it is not possible for the Government Agent, Police Magistrate, or Superintendent of Police to get to the scene in time to prevent trouble in the great majority of cases.

The *Health of the Force* during the year was very satisfactory; there was a marked decrease in the number of men admitted to hospital. Arrangements were made for proper dental treatment, woollen socks were issued to prevent boot cuts and sores, and mosquito curtains were provided at malarial stations. The result of these special measures was in each case an improvement in health.

Training School.—The work on the building of the new Training School for recruits next to the police recreation ground at Bambalapitiya from Loan Funds is progressing. The housing and training of recruits in healthy surroundings with the means of recreation ready at hand should have good results. The officers of the Force in Colombo are housed near this site, so that the recruit will come under the constant influence of officers both in work and play. This should go far towards establishing and maintaining a high standard of conduct and efficiency throughout the Force.

Pettah Barracks.—Funds have also been voted to continue the work on the building of barracks for the Pettah police, who are at present living in rented houses (which they find great difficulty in securing) scattered all over the town, at a distance from their work, and frequently in the immediate neighbourhood of criminals and bad characters. The Pettah is the most disorderly, the most criminal, and one of the most important parts of the town, containing as it does much valuable property,

the principal markets, and native provision stores. In times of disturbance it is generally the scene of the original and most serious outbreak. It is therefore obviously important that men should be housed in barracks near at hand, so that they can turn out at a moment's notice in the event of trouble.

PRISONS.

The twelve prisons in the Island may be divided as follows :—

- (a) Central Prisons : Welikada (Colombo), Bogambra (Kandy), Mahara (14 miles east of Colombo).
- (b) Local Prisons : Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Galle, Jaffna, and Negombo.
- (c) Remand Prisons : Hulftsdorp (Colombo), Old Prison (Kandy).
- (d) Main Prison Hospital : Borella (Colombo).

Imprisonment and Treatment.

This may be divided into three classes : Rigorous, simple, and preventive detention.

(a) *Rigorous*.—During the first month all prisoners perform penal stage work, that is to say, either husk-beating for manufacturing coir or metal-breaking for the Public Works Department, Local Boards, &c. After this they are, with the exception of short-sentenced prisoners (who perform domestic duties in the prisons), employed on industrial work, for instance, as carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, tailors, tinsmiths, laundrymen, dhobies, rattan workers, mat-makers, weavers. They also carry out anti-malarial work under Medical Department, agricultural work under Agricultural Department, and re-forestation under the Forest Department.

Prisoners are also employed in the Government Printing Office in Colombo on clerical work, bookbinding, paper-folding and cutting, ruling and numbering machines, packing, and dispatching. It is to the Government Printing Office that the majority of the better educated prisoners are sent, as they are more usefully employed there, and a greater return to Government is ensured than would be the case if they were distributed elsewhere.

At Mahara re-convicted prisoners are employed in quarrying metal for the Public Works Department and Harbour Works, while at Jaffna re-convicted prisoners and a certain class of first

offenders are employed in reclamation work. These are the only two prisons where the labour can really be looked upon as rigorous.

(b) *Simple Imprisonment*.—All prisoners undergoing simple imprisonment are located either in Welikada or Bogambra, and are usually employed in the services of the prison or put to some other form of labour more suitable.

(c) *Preventive Detention*.—Habitual criminals are frequently ordered by the courts to undergo a further period of detention “not exceeding five nor less than three years” after their sentence of imprisonment has elapsed.

Such prisoners are at present lodged at Bogambra Prison. Kandy, and as far as is possible kept entirely apart from all other prisoners. They are taught some trade, which it is hoped may enable them to take up useful work on their discharge. During their period of preventive detention they are able to earn a monthly gratuity and good conduct pay. Of this, they are allowed to spend a portion of each week in the purchase of additions to their diets, should they so desire, or they may send it to their families, or let it accumulate, to be paid to them on discharge.

The object aimed at in preventive detention is both to reform the prisoner and to give him on his discharge a good chance to start off again in life.

All prisoners are interviewed individually on admission, and again after the completion of their penal stage, when it is determined to what branch of industry or prison service they should be assigned. All first offenders and specially selected re-convicted prisoners, with the exception of short-sentenced prisoners, are given their choice of a trade. No long-sentence prisoner is employed in prison service, but every endeavour is made to teach him something which may be of use to him on his discharge. Age, education, antecedents, &c., have to be taken into consideration.

Female prisoners are taught sewing by hand and machine, to make their own clothes and those of the male prisoners, to make string bags for the use of the Treasury, lace, pillow slips, mosquito curtains, &c.

No work other than prison service is performed on Saturday afternoons or Sundays.

At Welikada (Colombo) specially chosen first offenders between the ages of 16 and 21 and re-convicted prisoners between 16 and 25 years form a Boy Scout Troop. Under the guidance of the

Boy Scouts Association they are taught scout work on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays each week. The Girl Guide Association undertake the same work amongst the female prisoners. Both experiments are proving a great success. In addition, special lectures and English evening classes are held under the direction of the Royal College, Colombo, for all educated Ceylonese prisoners and Prison Scouts. From these also the results are most encouraging. An open air gymnasium for the Prison Scouts and lecture and reading room and library are now in use at this prison for educated Ceylonese prisoners.

Remission.

All prisoners whose sentences exceed twelve months can, by good conduct and industry, earn 25 per cent. remission after the first year.

Prisoners are punished by—

- (1) Forfeiture of remission marks.
- (2) Reduction in diet.
- (3) Forfeiture of P. O. Badge (Good Conduct Badge).
- (4) Corporal punishment.

Religious Instruction.

Every facility is granted to representatives of all denominations, and nearly all are represented each Sunday. In addition, the following days are observed as holidays by prisoners of the denomination concerned :—

Christmas Day and Good Friday, all prisoners.

Wesak, for Buddhists.

Hadji, for Muhammadans.

Hindu New Year, for Hindus.

Medical Attention.

A Medical Officer is attached to each prison, and all parties of prisoners are visited at least once daily. Prisoners requiring treatment or attention at other times are sent to the dispensary, or during the hours of night either the Medical Officer or the dispenser is called in.

System of Payment of Prisoners.

The following are the rates paid, and all payments are made to prisoners on discharge :—

Prison Orderlies (Good Conduct Badge): Re. 1 per mensem.

Prisoners in Classes I. or II., *i.e.*, either 3rd year or 4th year of imprisonment: cents 50 per mensem if employed as artisans, sledgers, or miners; cents 30 per mensem if not so employed.

The total amount earned by the prisoners is Rs. 4,008·75.

There was a decrease of 658 in the total number of admissions of convicted prisoners during the year 1923, excluding Road Ordinance defaulters, of whom there were 221, as against 275 in 1922.

The figures are as follows :—

1922	..	..	..	10,585
1923	...	..	..	9,927

The number of prisoners sentenced to death was 56, as against 49 in 1922. There were 41 executions during the year, as against 36 in 1922.

Of the 41 whose capital sentences were carried out, 36 were Sinhalese and 5 Tamils.

Of the number executed, 3 had been sentenced in 1922; and of the number sentenced to death, 2 were executed in 1924.

There were 8 escapes and 6 re-captures during the year.

The total number of deaths in prisons was 102, as against 123 in 1922, and the death-rate per 1,000 of the admissions during the year was 6·01, as against 7·57 in 1922 and 11·40 in 1921.

The number of punishments inflicted during the year for prison offences was 895, as against 1,067 in 1922 and 1,715 in 1921.

Prisoners are in all prisons employed upon works of public utility and remunerative industrial labour. At Welikada and Bogambra prisons various trades are taught, such as carpentry, blacksmith, and tinsmith work; boot-making; tailoring; the making of cane furniture, matting, coir brooms, rugs, mats, coal and tea leaf bags, ropes, strings, bamboo tats; laundry work; printing; bookbinding; and mason work.

During the year under review 1,403 articles of wooden furniture were turned out by prison labour for various Government Departments. For making up furniture for the Government, the Forest Department supplied 14,892 cubes of various timbers in logs. Cutting, planing, &c., of timber was done by the machinery which was received from England in 1921.

The Government Printing Office continues to employ a daily average of 208 prisoners from Welikada Prison. This prison also continues to wash all soiled linen from the Medical and Railway Departments as well as Lunatic Asylum. 743,171 pieces being dealt with during the year.

15,275 articles of clothing and bedding were made up for the Colonial Storekeeper, and 34,633 yards of cloth woven for prison use.

The prisoners at Mahara Prison are exclusively employed in the quarries on account of Harbour Works and Public Works Department. A daily average of 187 prisoners were employed in the Harbour Works quarry during the year as blacksmiths, carpenters, platelayers, stone dressers, metal breakers, and on excavating and other works in connection with the working of the quarry. 371 tons of hand rubble and 13,881 tons of 2-inch metal were dispatched to Colombo Harbour Works. For the Public Works Department a daily average of 175 prisoners were employed in the Public Works Department quarry as metal breakers, and turned out 4,099·96 cubes of 2-inch metal.

The Karaiyur reclamation works at Jaffna continues to make good progress. The daily average number of prisoners employed on this work during the year was 86. The extent of land reclaimed, 1 acre 3 roods and 34 perches. Out of the 64½ acres to be reclaimed, about 60½ have now been completed.

Metal is supplied to the Public Works Department from Bogambra, Anuradhapura, Tangalla, Galle, and Badulla prisons.

At Anuradhapura a party of 20 prisoners is daily employed on account of Forest Department in clearing jungle and planting teak and margosa trees, &c. Twelve prisoners are employed in reclamation work on account of Local Board and 12 prisoners in the rice mill, and 25 to 30 prisoners are employed in paddy cultivating, clearing jungle, &c., at Dry Zone Experimental Garden, Puliankulam. Thirty prisoners are employed on account of anti-malarial campaign in filling up the pools of the town, weeding, clearing, &c.

Land, about 12 acres in extent, situated behind Welikada Prison, was planted with various vegetables by prison labour, and a sum of Rs. 2,263·95 was credited to revenue by sale of its produce during the year.

The schools at Welikada, Kandy, and Mahara for the instructions of prisoners of the age of 23 years and under on admission to prisons, and who have a sentence of six months and over, make satisfactory progress—the daily average attendance being 102 during the year.

On September 30, 1923, prisons at Tangalla, Trincomalee, Chilaw, and Kegalla were closed, and the prisoners and officers were transferred to other prisons.

Sixty-four prisoners passed through the All-Ceylon Malay Association formed for aiding discharged Muhammadan prisoners, of whom 5 were re-convicted.

The Boy Scouts Association have had a daily average of 45 first offenders under 23 years of age and 16 re-convicted prisoners under 25 years of age in their hands. This work is continuing to have great moral effect amongst this class of prisoners.

166 prisoners as given in the statement below were assisted on their discharge by the different aid societies, and only 11 of them have been re-convicted:—

Name of Association.	Number assisted.	Of these, Number re-convicted.
Central Association ..	72	2
All-Ceylon Malay Association ..	64	4
Boy Scouts Association ..	30	4
Total ..	166	11

The “Girl Guides Association” began work in the female prison at Welikada on December 17, 1922; satisfactory progress is being made.

A daily average of 688 prisoners worked at the Railway running shed, Customs, Wharf, and coal sheds at Mutwal and Kochchikadde during the strike from February 27, 1923, to March 20, 1923.

Buddhist Wesak Day, Muhammadan Hadji Day, and the Hindu New Year were observed as holidays by the prisoners of the respective religions.

XII.—Local Government.

IN addition to the two Urban District Councils established at Negombo and Ratnapura as from January 1, 1922, similar Councils were created for Chilaw, Jaffna, Kalutara, Matale, Matara, and Panadure as from January 1, 1923. On March 20, 1923, a motion, introduced by an elected member, was unanimously accepted by the Legislative Council that Government should take all such steps as may be necessary to bring into operation throughout Ceylon the Local Government Ordinance of 1920 at an early date. Accordingly an amending Ordinance was introduced whereby the principle of "local option" was to be repealed; and it was intended forthwith to divide the Island into suitable areas for Urban, General, and Rural District Councils and to take all action necessary to constitute such Councils. Provision was made whereby it would be possible, only in such areas as refused to assume their responsibilities, and purely as a temporary measure, to appoint a Commissioner with all the powers of a District Council to set up the necessary administrative machinery ready to be handed over to the Council as soon as the inhabitants were prepared to undertake the task of managing their own local affairs. When the second reading of the Ordinance was taken up on November 15, 1923, a proposal was put forward by the unofficial members that it should be postponed until the Legislative Council had information regarding the divisions of the Island proposed for Councils; the areas in which Commissioners would be appointed; and the manner in which the existing revenue and administrative system would be effected by the passing of the Ordinance. This resolution was accepted by Government, and steps are being taken to obtain the information desired.

XIII.—Control of Indian Immigrant Labour.

DURING the year under review the Controller was chiefly concerned with the organization of his Department, which was designed to meet the requirements of the Ceylon Labour Ordinance, No. 1 of 1923. This Ordinance in its turn is the outcome of conditions and regulations framed under the Indian

Emigration Act, No. VII. of 1922. The latter Act came into force on March 5, 1922, but under section 32 its provisions were not to apply to Ceylon or Malaya until twelve months from the date of commencement of the Act.

The Ordinance provides for the appointment of a Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour and the organization of his Department.

The Controller is to be assisted by an advisory " Board of Indian Immigrant Labour " appointed by the Governor.

The sections dealing with the " Immigration Fund " provide that it shall be collected and administered by the Controller, subject to the control of the Governor.

The actual basis on which the fund should be assessed and raised was left to be prescribed by regulations made by the Governor in Executive Council and laid before the Legislative Council.

The supervision and control of recruiting in India and the transport of assisted immigrants to the port of embarkation is entrusted to an Emigration Commissioner appointed by the Governor.

After careful consideration of the question by the Board Government decided that the fund should be raised by an acreage tax on estates employing Indian immigrant labour, and regulations were drafted to this effect. Under these regulations the tax is payable in quarterly instalments by such estates with 10 acres or more planted in tea, or with 30 acres or more planted in rubber, cacao, or cardamoms. The rate payable per quarter is fixed from time to time by the Governor in Executive Council. The assessment payable by each estate is made by the Controller on returns furnished by the estates and scrutinized in the Controller's office. Estates paying acreage fees are entitled to recruit under the fund without further payment. Employers who do not pay acreage fees and who wish to recruit unskilled labour in India may receive recruiting licenses on depositing (or furnishing the requisite guarantee for) a sum sufficient to meet the expenses of registering and bringing over the number of labourers whom they require.

An agreement with the Coast Agency of the Planters' Association was subsequently drawn up, by which the Labour Commission, while still preserving its identity, as soon as the fund came into operation placed the whole of its organization at the disposal of the Emigration Commissioner. Under his control and in due conformity with the requirements of the

Indian and Ceylon Governments it undertakes the supervision of recruiting with the registration, subsistence, and transport, as far as the house of accommodation at the port of embarkation, of all "assisted" unskilled Indian immigrant labour destined for Ceylon.

Outside the actual "conditions" governing emigration the Government of India requested this Government to inquire into the question of work and wages on estates, child labour on estates, and the repatriation (apart from condition 5 reproduced in section 22 of Ordinance No. 1 of 1923) of Indians who are unable through disease or infirmity to maintain themselves, or who are thrown out of work and unable to find further employment.

As to the work and wages on estates an exhaustive report was prepared by the Department of Statistics, which clearly indicated that the cooly was getting a very comfortable livelihood. The immigration figures for the year show that 90,000 Indian recruits came to Ceylon estates during the year, and that of this total more than 46,000, or over 50 per cent., were old immigrants returning to Ceylon for a second or subsequent period. These figures are the best proof that work in Ceylon, with present wages and under present conditions, is not unpopular with a large class in the agricultural districts of South India.

In considering the question of the employment of children on estates, it must be remembered that all over the East the children of agricultural workers, in their home villages, habitually assist their parents. It is also obvious that light weeding and other similar tasks, performed in the open air and out of school hours, do not fall into the same category as child labour under factory conditions in large manufacturing industries. While employers are ready to stop the employment of children under a certain age on estates, it was felt that such a prohibition would be very unpopular with the labourers themselves, and before any definite action is taken the question is being investigated, especially from the labourer's point of view, by the Agent in Ceylon of the Indian Government.

With regard to the repatriation of sick and indigent Indian immigrants of whatever description, a scheme was drawn up by the end of the year and has been brought into operation in the early part of 1924. Any Indian immigrant labourer certified by a District Medical Officer to be permanently unfit for further work by reason of disease or infirmity and unable to maintain himself is repatriated free of charge to his home in India. Indian immigrant vagrants are collected in all towns, and on

being certified as vagrants are sent to the "House of Detention," i.e., *depôt* for vagrants, in Colombo. Here either a suitable situation is found for them, or they are sent back to their homes in India. The cost of the scheme is defrayed partly from general revenue and partly by the fund.

Meanwhile in South India the Emigration Commissioner took steps to bring the system into conformity with the Indian regulations. As stated above, the staff and organization required were already in existence, and the changes called for were largely details of administration and registration.

The recruiting districts in South India were divided into circles, and the necessary appointments as Inspectors of Emigration for each circle were made from the higher staff of the Labour Commission.

On June 1, 1923, a resident Protector of Emigrants was appointed for Mandapam by the Madras Government, and from that date the complete system of registration and inspection required at the port of embarkation has been carried out.

On October 1, 1923, the Immigration Fund came into operation, and the expenses—heretofore borne by individual employers—were charged to the fund.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION DURING 1923.

Immigration from India into Ceylon falls into two main classes: the assisted immigration of unskilled agricultural labour for employment on estates, and the free immigration of those engaged in trade and other urban employment. There are two routes used: the Tuticorin-Colombo route, a sea passage of about 15 hours, on which the traffic is maintained by a steamer running twice a week in either direction, and the daily mail route *via* Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar, in which the sea-crossing takes only about 2 hours.

The intercourse between Tuticorin and Colombo is largely of a local character, and is drawn mainly from the Tinnevely district. The passenger traffic figures give a total for the year of 40,836 passengers to Colombo, as against 35,140 in 1922, while 41,105 passengers returned from Colombo to Tuticorin. Of the passengers to Colombo, 31,000 came from Tinnevely district and over 2,000 from each of the three districts of Malabar, Travancore, and Cochin. Again, 18,594 of the passengers described themselves as petty traders. A very large proportion of the remainder come over to Colombo to find work in Ceylon as domestic servants, rickshaw coolies, or for other urban employments.

About half the total imports of Ceylon come from India, and not only the import trade from India, but also the petty distributing trades in Colombo are largely in Indian hands. In consequence about a quarter of the population of Colombo hails from South India, has intimate connections with India, and passes freely to and fro. In short, Colombo is a large urban centre which attracts a free influx of trade and labour from the nearest districts in South India, just as any similar focus of trade and population attracts trade and labour from surrounding districts.

The immigration of assisted unskilled labour was throughout the year brought in by the Dhanushkodi-Talaimannar route, which also conveys practically all the passenger traffic coming from districts in India other than those adjacent to Tuticorin. The districts from which our immigrant agricultural labour is drawn lie for the most part between Madura and Chingleput, and would naturally use this route.

The total number of persons entering Ceylon by this route during the year was 132,709, of whom, according to the Board of Immigration and Quarantine statistics, 90,289 were estate labourers and 42,420 miscellaneous passengers. The corresponding figures for 1922 are 78,106 estate labourers and 47,740 miscellaneous passengers.

From the more detailed figures of the emigration and immigration of unskilled immigrant labour, it will be seen that recruiting during the year was heavy : 90,289 recruits having been dispatched, as against 77,636 in 1922 and only 22,365 in 1921.

In ordinary years recruiting depends largely on two main factors : the prosperity of the tea and rubber industries in Ceylon and the seasonal agricultural conditions in South India. For the year under review there was the possibility that the more complicated routine under the new regulations might to some extent temporarily dislocate the flow of recruiting. Events, however, proved that such a fear was unfounded.

The demand in Ceylon was good, with the advent of restriction the rubber outlook was fair, and there was a moderate demand for labour on rubber estates. The tea industry was in an exceedingly flourishing condition, good prices ruled throughout the year, wages generally increased, and there was a heavy demand for labour. At the same time agricultural conditions in South India were not very favourable. This stimulated the supply of recruits.

During the last seven months of the year, when recruiting was distinctly heavy, no less than 44 per cent. of the total dispatches consisted of "non-emigrants," *i.e.*, of labourers who

have lived more than five years in Ceylon, and their dependents. The Protector of Emigrants at Mandapam has also taken records, for several months, of the recruits, who, though classed as "emigrants," have been to Ceylon before. He estimates that these account for 10 per cent. of the "emigrants," or just over 5 per cent. of the total dispatches. In other words, about 50 per cent. of our unskilled immigrants are people returning for a second or subsequent period.

During the same period 51,762 estate labourers and their dependents left Ceylon for India. In other words, the exodus of estate labourers was very nearly made good by the return of former employees after a holiday, and the majority of new recruits came over, not to replace wastages from all causes, but to increase the immigrant labour force, which, owing to the heavy demand on tea estates, was distinctly short at the beginning of the year.

These figures show that emigration to Ceylon is by no means of the same character as emigration to a distant country. There, owing to the long journey, the emigrant either remains in the new country for good, or returns to India, once for all, after a certain number of years. Here, owing to the short journey, the emigrant passes to and fro, fairly freely, at intervals for a holiday. Many even of those who are born and bred on estates in Ceylon pay occasional visits to their relations in India, and, on their return, receive an assisted passage. It would appear from the figures that the men come and go more frequently than their women folk.

Looked at from another point of view, these figures are the best possible proof that with present wages and conditions estate life in Ceylon is by no means unpopular with a large number of immigrants. Otherwise few would return for a second period.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AT MANDAPAM.

It may be said with confidence that the Ceylon Quarantine Station at Mandapam Camp, which is also the place of accommodation for the port of Dhanushkodi, will bear comparison with any similar institution in the East. Every visitor to the camp remarks on the completeness of the hospital and sanitary arrangements and on the excellence of the accommodation and food provided.

The Emigration Commissioner reports that of 91,129 recruits and their dependents who passed through his hands, or through the hands of the Labour Commissioner in the early months of the year, 89,859 were dispatched to Ceylon, and 1,270 fell out after their registration at the up-country agencies and before embarkation.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON ESTATES.

No strikes or labour troubles of any serious nature occurred in any of the planting districts. The chief difficulty experienced by employers was the movement of labourers from estate to estate, frequently without giving notice; but employers by improving their lines and paying attention to the welfare of their labour force are doing all they can to render their labour contented and unwilling to move. The movement is more noticeable among labourers newly arrived from the coast; after a while they settle down.

On tea estates the high prices prevailing throughout the year caused a great demand for labour, and there is no doubt that the daily average of wages rose. In fact at the end of the year the labour forces generally were in as prosperous a condition as they have been for a long time; the fact is reflected in the abnormal rate of immigration, and especially in the high percentage of old employees returning.

DEPARTMENTAL INSPECTION OF ESTATES.

As soon as the fund came into operation two Inspectors were appointed to assist in the inspection of estates. The supervision of housing and sanitary conditions remains in the hands of the Principal Civil Medical Officer, and inspections by the Immigrant Labour Department are undertaken mainly to determine or verify the acreage liable for assessment, to inquire into complaints and petitions from labourers, and to see that the proper books are kept in connection with the registration and payment of the labour force.

At the same time, whenever any estate is inspected, the lines and general sanitary conditions are examined; any defects are noted and referred to the Principal Civil Medical Officer for necessary action. Forty-eight estates were inspected during the last quarter of the year, mainly in connection with questions of assessment.

Outside of the estates Indian immigrant labour finds employment chiefly in certain Government Departments and with the various engineering firms, mills, &c., in Colombo. This labour is practically all engaged locally. Vacancies as they occur are filled from either Ceylonese or immigrant applicants, and the labour market in Colombo appears to attract an influx of free immigration. There is little or no recruiting, except in the case, now and again, of a few road coolies in the planting districts.

The rates of pay for manual labour in Colombo among the Government Departments and the larger private firms have for the last two years been looked into by a Labour Advisory Board, which consists of representatives from the Government Departments and private employers. In accordance with the recommendations of this Board uniform scales of pay have been fixed for all daily paid hands in the Ceylon Government Railway, the Railway Extensions, and the employees in Colombo of all Government Departments.

The pay in the larger private firms in most cases conforms with, or closely approximates to, these rates.

W. E. HOBDAY,
Second Assistant Colonial Secretary.

July 1, 1924.

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No. 1244.

BASUTOLAND.**ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.****INTRODUCTORY NOTE.**

Basutoland, which is a native territory in South Africa, is bounded on the west by the Orange Free State, on the north by the Orange Free State and Natal, on the east by Natal and East Griqualand, and on the south by the Cape Province. Its area is 11,716 square miles. It lies between $28^{\circ} 35'$ and $30^{\circ} 40'$ south latitude, and between 27° and $29^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude.

The altitude varies from 5,000 ft. to 11,000 ft. above sea level, and the climate is, on the whole, healthy. The Maluti Mountains in former years were used entirely as cattle posts, but owing to the increase in population the Basuto have found it necessary to migrate there and build villages and cultivate the land, so that to-day the more or less inaccessible area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as the low-lying country to the west. In favourable seasons the Territory produces wheat, mealies and kafir-corn, also cattle, horses and sheep; the export of wool for this year amounting to over $11\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds weight.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the remnants of various tribes which had been scattered about South Africa during the wars waged by Moselekatse, and thus founded what to-day has become the Basuto nation, consisting of upwards of 540,000 souls.

A series of wars took place between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free State from 1856 onwards, and it was not until 1868, when Moshesh was hard pressed by the Boers, that he appealed to the British Government for help and the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect in March, 1868. In 1871 the Territory was annexed to the Cape Colony, and, after various disturbances, the Government of the Cape, in April, 1880, extended the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878 to Basutoland, which included a clause providing for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto refused to accept the terms, and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at by which the Act was repealed and certain fines inflicted on the tribe.

Although outwardly peace had been restored, there still remained several chiefs who would in no way accept the terms, and it was eventually decided by the Government of the Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This took effect on the 13th March, 1884. Since this date the Territory has been governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

In 1903, a native National Council of 100 members was formed for the purpose of discussing internal matters, and with a view to acting in a measure as an advisory body to the Resident Commissioner.

GENERAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

On the 10th September His Excellency the Earl of Athlone paid his first official visit to the Territory as High Commissioner. His Excellency, on arrival, was escorted by some 25,000 mounted Basuto, and after a short interval at the Headquarter Offices of the Territory, the vice-regal party proceeded to the Pitso-ground, where some 50,000 natives were present.

The British Empire Parliamentary Delegates, who arrived on the same day, also attended the Pitso, and were present when His Excellency opened the National Council in the afternoon. Mr. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of State for the Colonies, who accompanied the Delegation, was also present at the Pitso and addressed the natives. He subsequently attended the National Council.

The High Commissioner paid visits to the Leper Settlement, Industrial School and other places of interest; received addresses from Missionaries, the Chamber of Commerce and others, and after receiving deputations from certain native Chiefs, left Maseru on the 15th September.

The 19th Session of the National Council was held from 15th September to 30th September, 1924, and amongst other matters the following were the more important matters discussed:—

- (1) *Administration of Justice in Native Courts.*—It was agreed that there was still a certain amount of avoidable delay in disposing of cases, due to a great extent to the non-attendance of parties and their witnesses, but on the whole there was some improvement.
- (2) *Eradication of Burr-weed.*—In the main but little genuine attempt had been made by the Chiefs and people to destroy this weed, but some Councillors agreed that the Paramount Chief was in a position under the native law to enforce his orders for its destruction, and this view was emphasized by the Chairman.
- (3) *Amendments to the Scab Regulations.*—The Councillors, after considerable discussion, agreed to the necessity for amendment of the regulations so as to render more efficient the working of the law.
- (4) *Theft of Stock in Basutoland.*—A lively discussion took place on this subject, which resulted in a request being sent to the High Commissioner for legislation empowering the Resident Commissioner's Court to inflict corporal punishment in serious cases of stock and wool theft. This request has since been acceded to, and in certain cases corporal punishment has been inflicted, with, it is hoped, salutary effect.

- (5) *Sale of Native Beer*.—The Councillors were fairly evenly divided on this question and, after a heated discussion, the majority voted against the authorization of canteens.

LEGISLATION.

The more important Proclamations promulgated during the year were :—

The Pensions Proclamation, 1924.—Consolidating and amending the rules and regulations concerning the granting of pensions and of superannuation and other allowances to persons employed in the Government Service.

Public Service Proclamation, 1924.—Amending the law governing appointments to and promotions in the Public Service of Basutoland.

Combined Court.—Empowering the Resident Commissioner to associate with himself as a member of the Court an Advocate from the Union of South Africa, in civil cases in which both parties are Europeans.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year ended the 31st March, 1924, amounted to £252,613, an excess of £10,113 on the estimate and an increase of £40,075 on the revenue for the preceding year. The expenditure for the year was £241,668, a saving of £784 on the sum authorized. The net result shows an excess of revenue over expenditure of £10,945. The native tax collection yielded £134,689, an increase of £13,456 compared with the collection during the preceding year.

The following heads of revenue also show increases on the estimate :—

	Estimate	Actual Receipts.
	£	£
Customs and Excise	65,000	71,043
Posts and Telegraphs	7,750	8,038
Licences	7,200	7,585
Income Tax	4,000	6,773
Wool Export Duty	13,000	14,128

The last head of revenue represents a tax of $\frac{1}{4}d$. a pound on wool and mohair exported from the Territory and was imposed on the 1st April, 1923, in connection with measures taken for the eradication of scab in Basutoland.

The expenditure incurred during the year on such measures amounted to over £14,000.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure during the past three years :—

REVENUE.

	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£
Native Tax	126,541	121,233	134,689
Customs and Excise ..	54,403	62,011	71,043
Posts and Telegraphs ..	7,661	7,522	8,038
Licences	7,174	7,097	7,585
Fees of Court or Office ..	970	814	784
Judicial Fines	1,461	1,305	2,009
Income Tax	2,732	3,755	6,773
Fees for services rendered	2,490	2,605	1,366
Interest	2,640	2,550	2,341
Wool Export Duty	—	—	14,128
Miscellaneous	3,730	3,645	3,857
	<u>£209,802</u>	<u>£212,537</u>	<u>£252,613</u>

EXPENDITURE.

	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£
Establishments	26,962	—	—
Resident Commissioner ..	—	(a) 12,554	13,758
District Administration ..	—	(a) 12,934	12,670
Police	38,184	35,647	36,189
Posts and Telegraphs ..	10,725	10,043	10,437
Administration of Justice	5,955	9,116	9,806
Public Works Department	4,328	5,811	6,526
Public Works Recurrent..	22,484	20,371	20,990
Public Works Extraordinary	2,874	2,335	3,661
Medical	20,396	20,443	20,575
Education	35,301	34,681	34,813
Government Industrial School	2,454	2,323	2,437
Audit	650	733	(b) —
Agriculture	9,871	9,984	21,806
Allowances to Chiefs ..	14,409	11,290	12,448
National Council	1,933	1,830	1,950
Leper Settlement	21,720	20,845	20,036
Pensions	4,942	5,259	6,681
Miscellaneous	9,652	4,868	5,656
Total Ordinary Expenditure	<u>232,840</u>	<u>221,067</u>	<u>240,439</u>
Expenditure from Surplus			
Balances	10,238	3,480	1,230
Total	<u>£243,078</u>	<u>£224,547</u>	<u>£241,668</u>

(a) Previously shown as " Establishments."

(b) Provision now made under " Resident Commissioner."

INCOME TAX.

The rates of normal and super taxes imposed by Proclamation No. 36 of 1923 in respect of income for the year ended 30th June, 1923, were the same as for the previous year.

Collections under this head amounted to £6,772 13s. 6d., being an increase of £3,017 6s. 4d. on the receipts for the year 1922-1923, and an excess of £2,772 13s. 6d. on the estimate for 1923-1924.

The collection was made up of :—

	£	s.	d.
Arrear Tax	136	13	10
Current Tax	6,635	19	8
	<hr/>		
	£6,772	13	6

On the above total the following shows the sources from which taxable incomes were derived and the amount of tax obtained from each :—

	£	s.	d.	per cent.
General Traders	4,023	10	11	or 59·41
Civil Servants	1,334	9	2	„ 19·71
Employed persons—other than				
Civil Servants	441	7	10	„ 6·51
Others—including Banks, etc. ..	689	2	6	„ 10·18
Non-Residents	284	3	1	„ 4·19
	<hr/>			
	£6,772	13	6	= 100 per
	<hr/>			cent.

The number of incomes assessed for current tax in the various categories were :—

No.	Category.	Total of Taxable Incomes.
	£	£
80	301-500	33,282
49	501-750	29,798
23	751-1,000	20,134
16	1,001-1,500	18,973
12	Over 1,500	39,063
<hr/>		<hr/>
180	Total taxable income of persons assessed for current tax	£141,250
		<hr/>

TRADE.

The following is a return of the imports into, and the exports from, the Territory during the calendar year 1924, the figures for 1923 being given for purposes of comparison :—

IMPORTS.

	1923.		1924.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Merchandise	—	£ 767,198	—	£ 788,005
Livestock :—				
Horses, Mules, etc. ..	157	669	692	2,124
Cattle	5,580	13,097	4,891	11,548
Sheep and Goats	401	350	468	216
Grain :—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal ..	2,132	3,762	4,666	7,582
Maize and Maize-meal ..	10,024	8,242	82,291	69,928
Kafir Corn	2,899	2,552	32,871	28,963
Other Produce	—	622	—	604
Government Imports ..	—	796,492	—	908,970
	—	30,562	—	33,309
Total Imports ..	—	£827,054	—	£942,279

EXPORTS.

	1923.		1924.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Livestock :—		£		£
Horses, Mules, etc. ..	250	1,462	58	430
Cattle	1,773	6,647	242	1,048
Sheep and Goats	734	518	253	210
Grain :—	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat-meal	64,144	71,791	30,858	32,492
Maize and Maize-meal	87,161	41,409	9,767	6,939
Kafir Corn	52,570	34,536	14,628	8,865
Oats	83	32	—	—
Barley	107	56	39	23
Beans and Peas	9,622	9,045	3,010	2,927
Wool and Mohair :—	<i>lb.</i>		<i>lb.</i>	
Hair, Angora	2,001,564	119,646	2,455,950	183,076
Wool	10,264,894	513,644	11,577,384	715,665
Hides and Skins :—				
Hides	142,336	3,035	160,627	4,116
Skins	89,731	1,751	99,342	2,732
Miscellaneous	—	197	—	287
Total Exports ..	—	£803,769	—	£958,810

The above figures show that the exports from the Territory during the year exceeded the imports by some £16,000, and, deducting the £33,000 odd Government imports, show a balance

of trade in favour of the Territory of some £49,000. The balance of trade in favour of the Territory during 1923, calculated on the same basis, was approximately £7,000.

The exports of wool and mohair showed a considerable increase, both in quantity and value, over the previous year. In view of the great importance of these items, forming, as they do, the greater part of the exports of the Territory, it is interesting to compare the figures for the last five years :—

		Wool. lb.	Mohair. lb.
1920	..	10,030,954	2,259,741
1921	..	12,826,792	2,330,006
1922	..	12,829,330	2,326,367
1923	..	10,264,894	2,001,564
1924	..	11,577,384	2,455,950

The exports of livestock by traders show a considerable decrease as compared with the figures for the year 1923. As stated in the report for last year, however, a large business is done by speculators from the Union of South Africa, and the amount of trade in this line by resident traders is practically negligible.

Wheat, maize and kafir-corn exports amounted to 55,000 odd muids, as compared with 147,700 muids in 1923, whilst 119,700 muids were imported, as compared with 14,400 in 1923. These figures show that the amount of grain grown in the Territory during the year fell a long way short of the needs of the people. The failure of the grain crop was due to the prolonged drought, which prevented the natives from ploughing and sowing their lands until late in the season, with the result that the greater part of the crops failed to mature before winter set in.

IMPORTS.

These show an increase of £100,000 over the previous year's figures. A slight increase in the imports of merchandise and a large increase in the quantity and value of grain is accountable for this.

GENERAL.

Despite the failure of the grain crop, the trade for the year showed an improvement over the previous year, and there is evidence that the Territory is well on the way to normal prosperity.

EDUCATION.

The average attendance of pupils in Schools and Institutions is now close on 30,000, while the number of pupils on the Roll is 40,814.

The following table shows the average attendance of pupils during the last 10 years :—

Table I.

Total average attendance in Schools and Institutions for the year ending December :—

1915	..	..	..	..	17,167
1916	..	..	..	..	19,496
1917	..	..	..	..	20,760
1918	..	..	..	..	21,160
1919	..	..	..	..	22,556
1920	..	..	..	..	23,479
1921	..	..	..	..	22,586
1922	..	..	..	..	23,424
1923	..	..	..	..	26,124
1924	..	..	..	..	29,267

The increase in the average attendance for 1924 is 3,143.

Table II.

Grants to Missions for Schools and Institutions :—

	£
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	21,528
Roman Catholic Mission..	6,530
Church of England Mission	3,315

£31,373

Table III.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ACCORDING TO SIZE AND DENOMINATION.

Mission.	Over 200	150 to 200	100 to 150	70 to 100	60 to 70	45 to 60	25 to 45	20 to 25	Under 20	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society	3	9	37	69	34	63	90	28	22	353
Roman Catholic	1	5	13	9	8	16	41	9	7	109
Church of England	—	2	4	13	3	8	22	6	2	60
Total	4	16	54	91	45	87	153	41	31	522

Table IV.

ENROLMENT OF PUPILS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Mission.	Number of pupils on the Roll, December, 1923.			Number of pupils on the Roll, December, 1924.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society.	8,978	17,790	26,768	9,588	18,621	28,209
Roman Catholic ..	1,845	5,740	7,585	1,949	5,733	7,682
Church of England ..	1,289	2,852	4,141	1,434	2,895	4,329
Total	12,112	26,382	38,494	12,971	27,249	40,220

This shows an increase of 1,726.

(1915)

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Table V.

ENROLMENT OF PUPILS IN INSTITUTIONS.

Institution and Mission.	No. of pupils on Roll, December, 1923.			No. of pupils on Roll, December, 1924.			
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Morija (Paris Evangelical Mission Society).	94	—	94	77	—	77	Normal.
Th. Morena (P.E.M.S.).	—	37	37	—	37	37	Industrial and Normal.
Leloaleng .. (P.E.M.S.).	45	—	45	46	—	46	Industrial.
Roma (Roman Catholic).	127	242	369	138	245	383	Industrial ; Agricultural and Normal.
Masite (Church of England).	27	—	27	18	—	18	Industrial and Normal.
Maseru (Church of England).	—	50	50	—	40	40	Industrial.
Total ..	293	329	622	279	322	601	—

Table VI.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Mission.	Year ending December, 1923.			Year ending December, 1924.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Paris Evangelical Mission Society.	5,942	11,552	17,494	6,439	13,272	19,711
Roman Catholic ..	1,327	4,070	5,397	1,437	4,462	5,899
Church of England ..	859	1,866	2,725	971	2,143	3,114
Total	8,128	17,488	25,616	8,847	19,877	28,724

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

In December, 1924, there were 131 pupils in the eight schools for European children, being a decrease of two pupils as compared with last year's figures.

VETERINARY.

ANTHRAX.

During the year 62 outbreaks of anthrax occurred, 27 less than last year. The Mafeteng District furnished the most outbreaks, 19 occurring in this district. Prompt inoculation has been carried out in all outbreaks and the actual mortality has been very low. Research laboratory vaccine has been employed with excellent results.

All transport cattle are inoculated every 12 months and all cattle entering the Orange Free State have to be inoculated prior to export.

During the year 32,873 cattle were inoculated—11,785 by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon's staff, and the remainder by the Police. Assistant Commissioners and police officers have rendered excellent assistance in this work.

EQUINE MANGE.

It is regretted that a favourable report cannot be given in regard to the endeavours to eradicate this disease. A scheme was evolved of treating all equines by spraying at the sheep dipping-tanks with full strength Cooper's Dip, and it is regretted that in practice this was found not to be successful. Climatic conditions have been much against this form of treatment, constant rain neutralizing the good effect of the spraying. In addition to the shortcomings of this treatment, many owners have neglected to carry out the instructions given them, and unless there is soon an improvement in this direction it will become necessary to legislate more forcibly in order that the necessary treatment and precautions may be better carried out.

Having recognised that the spraying treatment was not going to be effectual, the Principal Veterinary Surgeon evolved a cheap oily dressing which it is hoped will prove efficient.

During the year 5,396 horses have been sprayed and dressed. This clearly illustrates how extremely prevalent horse mange is in the Territory, and how serious this disease has become. The most infected districts are those of Butha Buthe, Leribe, Maseru and Qacha's Nek.

SHEEP SCAB.

Considerable progress has again been made during the year in the eradication of scab in those areas supplied with tanks, and it is very gratifying in repeating the scheme of simultaneous dipping all along the Orange Free State and part of the Cape borders to find how clean the flocks had become since the advent of the scab campaign, and a good demonstration of this was furnished in the Mafeteng district, where 79,000 sheep were dipped on the Wepener border and only 10 sheep were found to be infected with scab.

Similar illustrations were found in other districts and there is no doubt whatever that if sufficient tanks can be built in the Territory to give everyone proper facilities for dipping the dipping-tank can be relied upon to beat the scab parasite.

The climatic conditions have been particularly unfavourable for dipping operations. Since September the wettest summer on record has been experienced, and this has naturally resulted in much delay in the efforts to carry out simultaneous dipping in protected areas. Notwithstanding this disability, 1,459,047 sheep and goats have been dipped.

The casualties from dipping have been 225 sheep and goats, and, considering that an arsenical dip is being used, they must be looked upon as light. Efforts are being made, however, to reduce these, as they are undesirable and at times fall extremely heavily on the individual owner. Although owners are compensated for all losses, dipping casualties tend to cause dissatisfaction and endanger the confidence of the native in the work.

During the year 18 new dipping-tanks have been erected and 12 have been converted into circular stone tanks.

• As tank-building has now to take place away from the main waggon roads the work is becoming more difficult and expensive, inasmuch as the material in these cases has to be transported by means of pack animals. A good instance of this has been the Namahali tank, which has been built at an altitude of 9,000 ft. Difficulties are also being experienced owing to the fact that most of the tanks now to be erected will be out of the sandstone area, which will render the building of a water-tight tank very difficult. It is hoped, however, to overcome this by making the tanks of concrete.

It has been very difficult to find good and reliable men to tender for the erection of the tanks, and in some cases this difficulty has been overcome by the permanent employment of either European or native builders. It has been found, however, that where good men can be secured the system of calling for tenders is the best, as the responsibility for the work is not then thrown on to the European staff, whose time is fully occupied in handling the dipping operations.

Observations during the last year have shown a remarkable absence of the scab parasite of the angora goat, and it is hoped to be able to make use of this observation in the future in reducing some of the dipping expenses.

During the year the Principal Veterinary Surgeon discussed sheep scab with the members of the Basutoland National Council, and it was gratifying to find in this discussion how appreciative the members were of the work which had been done and how fully they recognised the advantages of the scab eradication legislation to the Territory, and there was a unanimous wish for the speedy erection of more tanks, so that every one could avail himself of the opportunity of dipping his sheep.

Much of the success has been due to the loyal co-operation of the sheep owners, and if this persists our anticipations of a possibility of eradicating scab may be confidently looked forward to. Except for a portion of the south-east corner of the Territory, the whole of the Orange Free State and Cape borders are now supplied with tanks, and this of course reduces the possibility of scab-infected sheep trespassing into the Union to a minimum. During the next year an effort will be made to complete the erection of the necessary tanks on our south-eastern border.

All sheep dipped in protected areas have been branded, and it is hoped that it will be found possible next year to brand the sheep in each tank area with a distinctive brand, as it has been found that branding has been of great assistance in carrying out check inspections.

Fourteen thousand five hundred and one sheep and goats were exported into the Union of South Africa under the Union Regulations. Ten thousand one hundred and one of these were exported from the Qacha's Nek district.

MICROSCOPIC SLIDES.

During the year 458 slides were examined by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon.

STUD

During the year 83 foals were born out of 147 mares covered. This is the best return the stud has had and the quality of the foals was also the best seen. The stallion Gumshoe produced 32 foals from 40 mares—a remarkable return considering the conditions that exist in a native Territory.

GENERAL.

Nine hundred and seventy-seven cattle and horses were dipped at Maseru for ticks and lice.

Two thousand three hundred and eighty-two professional visits and attendances were made by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon of which 1,435 were to native owners.

AGRICULTURE.

The grant was the same as last year, *i.e.*, £1,200. A grant of £250 was also made for the purpose of starting Agricultural Demonstration work in the Territory.

A little fresh donga prevention work was undertaken and the existing work was kept in repair.

At the close of the year there were some 242,350 trees in the various Government nurseries, and the number of trees issued during the year was 58,295. This represents an improvement of 15,295 on last year's issues.

It is gratifying to be able to report that during the period under review there was no infestation of locusts in Basutoland.

Three Agricultural Demonstrators were employed and stationed at the chief educational centres, viz., Morija, Roma and Lelotaleng, and good work is being done by them. The Agricultural Officer has several demonstration plots under him, which are turning out very successfully and it is found that the natives are taking great interest in the work. Two more demonstrators are to be engaged during the coming year.

After several experiments with cotton, it is feared that cotton-growing will never become a payable proposition in Basutoland. The drought during 1924 made the plant so late in maturing that only about half the bolls ripened. Added to this are the drawbacks of altitude and too short a growing period. Hail is also a tremendous drawback. Cotton was planted three times most carefully at Roma, but was completely destroyed each time by hail.

Burr-weed is still very prevalent in the Territory. In some parts the natives have made an attempt to destroy it, but on the whole very little is being done by them.

The wheat crop is better than it has been for some years. The mountain districts require dry weather to enable the natives to harvest their crops.

The maize and kafir-corn crops throughout the country are promising well, except where cultivation has been left too late.

On the whole, it is anticipated that a fairly good grain crop may be expected during the forthcoming season.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads.—An exceptionally wet season has made it impossible to maintain the surface of the roads in a satisfactory condition; floods have done so much damage to permanent work that the available funds have to a great extent been expended on repairing culverts and building retaining walls.

Water Works.—Work on a pumping-plant for Teyatyaneng is well in hand, and on completion the old system of bringing water to the camp by ox-drawn water carts will be abolished.

Buildings.—The new Post Office at Maseru has been completed, and was opened for business on 9th February, 1925.

The building of the new hospital at Qacha's Nek is in progress and will be completed during the course of next year.

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There are seven gaols and four lock-ups in the Territory, and during the year 2,049 prisoners passed through them, as compared with 1,939 during the year 1923.

The number of convictions for contravention of the liquor laws in 1924 was 76, as compared with 27 for the previous year.

Convictions for offences against property numbered 137, as compared with 214 in 1923.

MOVEMENT OF INHABITANTS.

The following figures give the number of passes issued to natives to leave the Territory during the year, as compared with the figures for the year 1923 :—

	Labour	Visiting and Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
1923	76,202	33,194	109,396
1924	88,627	41,841	130,468

POST OFFICE.

The net postal, telegraph and telephone revenue amounted to £8,038 7s. 3d., as compared with £7,521 14s. 1d. for the year 1922-23.

The expenditure amounted to £10,437 8s. 3d., as compared with £10,042 17s. 9d. for 1922-23.

The number and value of deposits in, and withdrawals from, the Post Office Savings Bank for the last two years is shown in the following table :—

<i>Deposits.</i>	<i>Withdrawals.</i>
1922-23 = 1,046, value £5,225.	517, value £7,471.
1923-24 = 1,261, value £7,129.	442, value £5,512.

The following comparative table shows the number and value of money and postal orders issued and paid during the last two years :—

<i>Issued.</i>	<i>Paid.</i>
1922-23 = 19,693, value £20,986.	22,616, value £25,831.
1923-24 = 20,301, value £23,248.	21,376, value £26,721.

MEDICAL.

Treatment at the Government Dispensaries was given to 57,194 patients during the year—an increase of 8,876 over the previous year. This shows that these institutions are doing good and useful work, and that the increase of the medical establishment by the appointment of an additional officer has been justified. The new Medical Officer has been stationed at Teyateyaneng in the Berea district since September and has already proved the need for medical assistance in that part of the country.

The number of patients treated in the hospitals was 2,265. There is a decrease of 72 in the number of admissions which is accounted for by the closing down for repairs of certain wards in the Maseru Hospital. The building of a cottage hospital at Qacha's Nek is proceeding and when finished should prove of great use to that remote part of the country.

It has been noted that the majority of patients seeking admission to the hospitals do so for surgical aid.

The revenue collected from the hospitals and dispensaries amounted to £2,420 17s. 0d.

The general health of the Territory was good, and with the exception of typhus fever and smallpox there was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease. It is gratifying to note that the number of cases of typhus has decreased considerably. Nine hundred and fifty-eight cases, with 120 deaths, were reported in 1923, and 556 cases, with 41 deaths, in 1924. Reports from the districts indicate that the epidemic is gradually dying out.

Smallpox (227 cases with 15 deaths) is still epidemic in the central districts of the country, principally along the slopes of the mountains and in remote villages where vaccination has not been carried out for some years.

Sixty-four thousand nine hundred and sixty persons were vaccinated during the year.

Influenza of a mild nature was prevalent in the winter and spring months, and a majority of the cases were of the gastric type. There were 693 cases reported with no deaths.

Bacillary dysentery accounted for 110 cases and there were sporadic outbreaks of mumps, measles, chicken-pox and whooping cough. None of these diseases assumed epidemic form.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

The inmates on the whole continue to be well contented with their lot, a fact which is evidenced by the smallness of the number of convictions for minor offences and breaches of regulations, as well as by some diminution in the number of desertions, and the voluntary return of nearly all the deserters.

The conditions as regards the provision of remunerative work and lands for the cultivation of crops by the lepers themselves continue to be as described in previous reports. It must be confessed that leper labour is uneconomical; that lepers are very unwilling to perform work of any kind unless they are paid for it; and that in the case of paid labour the actual output is small. Although the wages paid are not high, it is probable that the same work could be done more efficiently and at a lower cost by the hiring of outside labour. On the other hand, the thera-

peutic effect of remunerative employment is recognised in all leper institutions, and such employment must be recognised as an important part of treatment which fully justifies the expenditure incurred thereby.

On 31st December, 1923, the number of the inmates was 213 males and 254 females, or 467 in all. On 31st December, 1924, the numbers were 224 males and 237 females, making a total of 461. Thus the population appears to be fairly stationary.

There were 96 admissions during 1924, as compared with 68 in 1923, an increase of over 45 per cent. This increase does not necessarily mean that leprosy is increasing in Basutoland; sufferers from the disease, on observing the return to their homes of persons in whom the disease has become arrested, are encouraged to present themselves voluntarily for isolation.

Fifty-eight persons were discharged as arrested cases.

The death-rate in 1924 was a little higher than in 1923. The comparatively large number of discharges, viz., 58, is partly explained by the more general application of intensive treatment, partly by the fact that many old patients were discharged in whom the disease was of long standing, and had undergone spontaneous arrest. As there was a general clearing-out of such cases in 1924, it is not anticipated that patients will continue to be discharged at such a rate in the near future.

Structural Changes.—Bricks are at present being made for the purpose of replacing the wood lining with bricks and cement plaster in two of the leper huts in order to make them more vermin-proof, and of more equable temperature. If the change be found to be very advantageous, it is proposed to treat the remainder of the huts in the same way, doing as many each year as the exigencies of the finance and labour will permit.

R. B. SMITH,

Government Secretary, Basutoland.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1215	British Honduras	1923
1216	New Hebrides	"
1217	Gibraltar	"
1218	Jamaica	"
1219	Sierra Leone	"
1220	Uganda	"
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate.. .. .	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States.. .. .	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria.. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria.. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria.. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1245.

NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1197.)



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No. 1245.

NIGERIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. Great Britain has recently received a mandate over a small portion of the Cameroons (31,150 square miles) which, for purposes of administration, has been placed under the Nigerian Government. The remainder of the Cameroons is administered by the French under a mandate, so that, for practical purposes, all the land frontiers of Nigeria march with French territory.

2. The area of Nigeria, including the mandated area of the Cameroons, is approximately 367,928 square miles (Southern Provinces and Colony 91,894 square miles; Northern Provinces 276,034 square miles), and it is thus larger than any British Dependency other than Tanganyika, India, and the self-governing Dominions. It is more than three times the size of the United Kingdom. Along the entire coast-line runs a belt, from 10 to 60 miles in width, of dense mangrove forest and swamp, intersected by the branches of the Niger delta and other rivers, which are connected one with another by innumerable creeks, the whole constituting a continuous inland waterway from beyond the western boundary of Nigeria almost to the Cameroons. Behind this belt lie dense tropical forests, rich in oil-palm trees and valuable mahoganies. Further inland the forests become thinner and are succeeded by open ground covered with long grass and occasional clumps of trees. In the extreme north, where there is a very small rainfall and little vegetation, the desert is slowly but steadily encroaching. There are few mountains in the southern portion of Nigeria except along the eastern boundary, but north and east of the junction of the rivers Niger and Benue there is a large plateau from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers as far as Jebba and Yola respectively, there are a number of important rivers, of which the Cross River is the largest. Except for Lake Chad, on the extreme north-east frontier, there are no large lakes.

3. The population of Nigeria according to the 1921 census is 18,631,442* (Southern Provinces and Colony, 8,371,459;

* Includes population of the mandated area of the Cameroons.

Northern Provinces, 10,259,983), larger than that of any British Dependency except India. There are about 4,000 Europeans temporarily resident in Nigeria, chiefly in the employ of the Government and of mercantile and mining companies. The country is not suited for European settlement. Of the native inhabitants the greater number are of pure negro race, but in the north there are Berber and negroid tribes. Of the former the Yorubas, Ibos, and Benis are the most important, and of the latter the Fulani, the Kanuri and the Hausa-speaking tribes, generally called Hausas. The Yorubas occupy the south-west corner of Nigeria and from an early date possessed an organised government. The Benis are now a comparatively small tribe, but Benin was formerly a very powerful kingdom, and its influence extended over a considerable area. The Ibos are a large unorganised tribe who occupy most of the land east of the lower Niger. The Kanuri occupy Bornu, in the north-east of Nigeria, a kingdom which has survived for many centuries in spite of great vicissitudes. It was known to the Portuguese as early as the 15th century and to Arab geographers several centuries earlier. The Hausas occupy the greater portion of northern Nigeria, and from an early date had attained to a fairly high level of civilisation. At the beginning of the 19th century the Hausa States were conquered by the Fulani, a nomad people who had settled in the towns and country of Hausaland and who, by their superior intelligence, had acquired great power and influence. The existing Hausa system of law and administration based on the Koran was retained, but Fulani dynasties were established in the various states.

4. The coast of Nigeria first became known to Europe towards the end of the 15th century as the result of the visits of Portuguese explorers. Shortly afterwards the demand for negro labour in the American and West Indian colonies created an immense trade in slaves, and for over three hundred years the west coast of Africa was visited in large numbers by the slave ships of all nations. At the beginning of the 19th century efforts were made to suppress the traffic, which was declared illegal, and a British naval squadron was stationed on the Coast to intercept the slave ships. With the decline of the slave trade the traffic in palm-oil and other tropical products rapidly increased, and the visits of naval ships and, later, of the British Consul at Fernando Po gave to the British a considerable prestige and influence among the tribes inhabiting the coasts of Nigeria. In 1851 British support was given to an exiled King of Lagos, who, in return, pledged himself to abolish the slave trade in Lagos, which was at that time the chief slave market in West Africa. Finding himself powerless against the slave-dealing faction, his son ceded Lagos to the British in 1861, and the British Colony of Lagos came into being the following year.

5. By the exertions of Mungo Park (1796-1805), Captain Clapperton (1822-26), Richard Lander (1826-30), Doctor Barth

(1850–55), and numerous other explorers, most of whom lost their lives in the country, the course of the Niger and the existence of the Fulani kingdoms in the interior became known, and an attempt was made by Mr. Macgregor Laird and others to open up the interior to trade. In spite of the efforts of these pioneers, who were supported to a certain extent by the British Government and philanthropists, eager to strangle the slave trade by legitimate traffic, the early efforts were not successful, owing to the heavy mortality among the European crews of vessels ascending the river. A better knowledge of conditions, and the use of quinine as a prophylactic against malaria, made later operations more successful, and before 1860 trade was established along the banks of the Rivers Niger and Benue. In 1879 the various British firms trading on these rivers were amalgamated, and in 1887 a Charter was granted to the amalgamated companies, which became known as the Royal Niger Company, Chartered & Limited. By this Charter the Company became responsible for the government of the river basins and the whole of Hausaland and Bornu, but, in practice, its influence extended little beyond the banks of the rivers.

6. The Berlin Conference of 1885 had recognised the British claim to a protectorate over Nigeria, and that part of the country which was not included within the Lagos territories of the sphere of the Chartered Company was made into a separate administration under Foreign Office control and became known as the Oil Rivers Protectorate and later as the Niger Coast Protectorate.

7. Owing to the restrictions on trade caused by artificial boundaries and the virtual monopoly which the Niger Company exercised, to the inability of the Company's forces to restrain the slave-raiding propensities of the Fulani Chiefs, and to foreign aggression on the western frontiers, it became necessary for the British Government to assume a more direct control over the country. The Company's Charter was accordingly revoked on the 1st January, 1900, and the northern portion of their territories became the Northern Nigeria Protectorate; the southern portion was added to the Niger Coast Protectorate and the whole was renamed the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. Both the Northern and Southern Protectorates were placed under Colonial Office control.

8. In 1898 an Imperial Force, recruited locally but with British Officers, was raised by Sir Frederick Lugard, and was later taken over by the Colonial Government. This force was named the West African Frontier Force, and the armed constabularies of the other West African Colonies and Protectorates were modelled on it. Soon after the establishment of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate, these troops were used to subdue the Mohammedan rulers of the Hausa states and Bornu, who had persistently ignored the British requests for the cessation of slave-raiding and whose attitude was one of open hostility to an administration of whose power they had had no proof. As each in turn was conquered a

new ruler was appointed who undertook to govern his country according to local law and tradition, but without slave-raiding and the extortion and inhuman cruelties which had marked the former régime. British Residents were stationed throughout the country and exercised a wholesome check on any tendency to relapse.

9. In the south there were fewer large states, and the people on the whole were of a much lower standard of intelligence and development. On the lower reaches of the Benin river, a Jekri chief, named Nana, defied the Protectorate Government and dealt openly in slaves. He was attacked by a naval and military force and defeated in 1894 after severe fighting. In 1897 a peaceful mission to the King of Benin was massacred and another combined expedition was despatched : Benin was captured and was found to be full of the remains of human sacrifices, for which the city had long had an unpleasant reputation. In 1902 the Aro tribe was subdued.

10. While the remainder of the country was being opened up, the hinterland of Lagos was being added by cession to the territories originally ceded by the King of Lagos in 1861. In 1866 Lagos had been included in the West African Settlements, and in 1874 it was united with the Gold Coast Colony. It became the separate Colony and Protectorate of Lagos in 1886.

11. In 1906 Lagos and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated, and in 1914 Northern Nigeria was included and the whole country became the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

12. On the outbreak of war in 1914 the Nigeria Regiment (of the West African Frontier Force) took part in the campaign which resulted in the conquest of the neighbouring German Colony of the Cameroons, and a strong contingent of the regiment also fought in the East African Campaign. On the whole the loyalty of the chiefs and people of Nigeria throughout the War was very marked, but there was a somewhat serious rising in Egbaland in 1918 which was quickly subdued.

II. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

13. The main political divisions of Nigeria are the Colony of Nigeria and two groups of Provinces known as the Northern and Southern Provinces which together form the Protectorate. The whole country is under the control of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief to whom the Lieutenant-Governors of the Northern and Southern Provinces and the Administrator of the Colony are responsible. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of a few of the senior officials. By Order in Council, dated the 21st of November, 1922, and entitled the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1922, the former bodies known as the Nigerian Council and the Legislative Council were abolished and a larger and more representative Legislative Council was substituted

for them. This new Legislative Council consists of:—The Governor, as President; twenty-six Official Members; three elected Unofficial Members representing the municipal area of Lagos and one representing the municipal area of Calabar; and not more than fifteen nominated Unofficial Members. These fifteen are selected to include nominees of the Chambers of Commerce of Lagos, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Kano, of the local Chamber of Mines, and of the Banking and Shipping interests, together with members representing African interests in parts of the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate which do not return elected representatives to the Legislative Council. This Council legislates only for the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate, and the Governor continues to legislate for the Northern Provinces of the Protectorate. The power of taxation in the Northern Provinces is left with the Governor and the scope of the Legislative Council in financial affairs is confined to the Colony and Southern Provinces, except that the sanction of the Council is required for all expenditure out of the funds and revenues of the central Government which is incurred in the Northern Provinces. There is thus a measure of direct representation of the people by members elected by themselves to the Legislative Council.

14. The first elections for the unofficial members for Lagos and Calabar were held on the 20th of September, 1923, and aroused the keenest interest. The new Legislative Council was inaugurated by the Governor on the 31st of October, 1923.

15. The Protectorate (including the mandated territory of the Cameroons) is divided into 23 provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident.

16. In the Northern Provinces and the western portions of the Southern Provinces, where there are chiefs of sufficient influence and ability, native administrations are recognised and supported by Government, the details of administration being left largely in the hands of the paramount chief and his officials, under the guidance and supervision of the Resident and his staff. In other parts, however, where there is no strong native authority capable of governing, the rule of the political officers is a more direct one, but even in such districts a native judiciary with powers limited in proportion to its ability and integrity is made use of with results that are increasingly satisfactory. In the Mohammedan Emirates of the north and, in the south, among the Yorubas and Benis, the general progress in orderly administration has been well maintained. Everywhere throughout these States are to be found a peaceful, diligent, prosperous and thriving peasantry, tilling their fields in complete confidence and security, governed by their own hereditary rulers, and living under forms of government which are the natural growth of their own political genius. For the most part these hereditary rulers fully justify the confidence placed in them, but there are, of course, cases in which they do not

fulfil expectations. In those cases steps are taken to provide the people with rulers who can be trusted. No retrospect of the work of the Mohammedan Emirates of the North would be complete without paying a tribute to the personal efforts of the leading Emirs whose efficiency and increased interest in all that tends towards administrative progress have been amply demonstrated.

17. The *Northern Provinces* territory (including a portion of the mandated territory of the Cameroons) is divided into thirteen Provinces altered in the course of the year to twelve, each under the immediate control of a Resident and the whole under the general administrative control of a Lieutenant-Governor. The proportion of the number of the political officers on duty—about 109 at any one time—to the number of the native population is about one to one hundred thousand.

18. The changes in the political administration of the Northern Provinces referred to in the last Annual Report have been effected. The Province of Kontagora has been partitioned between Sokoto, Nupe and Ilorin. The Yelwa and Zuru Divisions have been transferred to Sokoto; the Kontagora Division to Nupe; and the Borgu Division to Ilorin Province.

19. With its enlarged boundaries the name given to the Nupe Province was obviously inappropriate, referring as it did to only one Emirate in the Province. It was accordingly decided to re-name it the Niger Province.

20. The following smaller changes in Provincial areas have also been effected:—The Birnin Gwari District has been transferred to the Zaria Province from Nupe; the Shani and Garkidda Districts of Bornu have been incorporated in the newly organised Shillem Division of Yola Province; and the Gashaka District of the Mandated territory has been transferred from Yola to Muri Province.

21. The boundary between the Oyo Province, Southern Provinces, and Ilorin has been adjusted in certain respects where adjustment seemed necessary.

22. It was only necessary to organise a military patrol on one occasion and that was in order to punish some villages in the Gwoza District in the Mandated territory of Dikwa. The inhabitants of those villages had organised an attack on the District Head in order to secure the release of some of their friends under arrest for highway robbery.

23. The northern portion of Kontagora, which has for some time been closed under the provisions of the Unsettled Districts Ordinance, is now open and certain unsettled districts in the Pankshin Division of the Bauchi Province will be thrown open on the 1st of February, 1925.

24. Very considerable improvement has taken place among the backward and formerly unruly Mama tribe which occupies a portion of the hilly country in Nassarawa Province. For the first

time in their history their taxes have been collected by their Chiefs on their own initiative. They have voluntarily supplied labour for public works and several of the Mama Village Heads and their followers came in to meet His Excellency the Governor when he toured the Province in October. This last sign was perhaps the most marked indication of the improvement in their attitude to the administration of this shy and reserved people.

25. There has been a most marked improvement in trade particularly in the Provinces like Kano which depend a good deal on the export trade in groundnuts and hides and skins. From Kano alone 68,916 tons of groundnuts were railed during 1924.

26. The prosperity of the country and the free circulation of money is indicated in the comparative ease with which the taxes have been collected and the fact that, without pressure, the arrears of taxes of the previous year have been collected.

27. The financial position of the Native Administration Treasuries is a particularly strong one. Inclusive of approximately £392,000 invested in securities, the balances carried forward on the 31st March, 1924, totalled £1,101,129. This position is not the result of hoarding of revenue. Throughout the country large sums have been spent by the Native Administrations on roads, buildings and works of public utility and development.

28. The Sokoto and Kano Native Administrations have had the benefit of the services of an expert Irrigation Engineer and it is hoped that, as a result of his enquires, extensive irrigation works will be undertaken in Sokoto and water works in Kano. In both cases the main cost of the schemes will be borne by the Native Administrations concerned.

29. Contagious diseases amongst cattle, chiefly rinderpest and pleuro-pneumonia, continue annually to take a very serious toll of the cattle in the Northern Provinces. It is hoped that, as a result of the research work in the Laboratory recently established, it will be possible successfully to combat those diseases.

30. The Police Force of the Northern Provinces has maintained a high state of efficiency. There has been a decrease of crime in the Townships owing to a reorganisation of the police guards and the police have been called on to furnish escorts and guards to Political Officers touring in the more backward and inaccessible parts of the country. The Force is popular and there is no lack of recruits.

31. The services of the Colonial Chaplain, appointed to the Northern Provinces by the generosity of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, have been much appreciated.

32. The Native Administrations of the Provinces concerned have suffered severe losses in the deaths of the following Native Chiefs :—

i. Mohammadu Maiturare, C.M.G., Sultan of Sokoto, who died on the 17th of July, 1924, at the age of 74.

ii. Muhammadu Aba, Emir of Yola, who died on the 23rd of August, 1924, after a reign of over fourteen years. He had been decorated with an Honorary Commandership of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in recognition of his loyalty and the services he rendered to the Government during the Great War.

iii. Dalhatu, Emir of Zaria, who died on the 28th of October, 1924, after a short reign of about three years.

33. In the *Southern Provinces* development has been steady, both in those Provinces which enjoy their own Native Administration and those that still remain under direct rule. The gradually increasing sense of responsibility evinced by the Chiefs in the exercise of both their executive and judicial functions, has contributed to a generally peaceful atmosphere, which has only been seriously disturbed on the occasion referred to in the next paragraph.

34. On the 27th of January, 1924, Major G. L. D. Rewcastle, D.S.O., M.C., Assistant Commissioner of Police, while in charge of a police escort in the Nsukka Division of the Onitsha Province, was killed by a native of Ochima, which place had been stirred to revolt by a woman who posed as the priestess of a new and powerful fetish. A concentration of 110 police was ordered at Ukehe three miles from Ochima, and accompanied by another officer and a few police, the officer in charge left Lagos by motor on the evening following the day on which Major Rewcastle was killed, and met the force of police at Ukehe 48 hours later, having accomplished an overland journey of 505 miles in that time. On the morning of the 1st of February Ochima was attacked and occupied after a stubborn resistance. Casualties on both sides were slight, the police being under orders to use every restraint directly resistance was broken. As a result of their gallantry in recovering Major Rewcastle's body two members of the Police Force have been awarded the African Police Medal. The officers received the thanks of the Secretary of State for their services. This area has since remained perfectly peaceful.

35. The outstanding event in the Colony has been the outbreak of bubonic plague in Lagos. From the political point of view the absence of panic and the general acceptance of Government's measures have been noteworthy features. The sanitary aspect is dealt with in a later paragraph.

36. The time honoured dispute between the two main parties of the Muslim population of Lagos, was the subject of a case in the Supreme Court, in which the decision went to the Ligali faction. An appeal has been lodged and the matter is once more *sub judice*.

37. In the Oyo Province an adjustment (referred to in paragraph 21 above) of the Oyo-Ilorin Provincial boundary has been successfully negotiated, and will tend to relieve the land hunger of the Ilorins in that area.

38. Owing to tribal variations, the Ondo Division of the Ondo Province Native Administration has been divided into the Ondo Native Administration under the Oshemowe and his Council, and the Ondo Waterside Native Administration, including the mixed population inhabiting the southern portion of the Division.

39. A petition embodying various charges against the Owa of Owo, made by a considerable section of his people, necessitated his removal to Akure for five months, with a view to his deposition if necessary. Close investigation of the facts failed to reveal sufficient grounds for deposition, or to prove that the Owa alone was to blame for the unsatisfactory state of affairs then existing. After due consideration he has been permitted to resume his position, on the clear understanding that his future depends upon his behaviour towards his own and Government's administration.

40. The case of Chief Dore's right of disposal of certain lands at Warri was taken to the Full Court, which upheld the decision of the Divisional Court in Chief Dore's favour. The creation of the Ukpe Sobo Court at Sapele has given to the Sobos of that District the judicial independence foreshadowed last year.

41. It has been found unnecessary to retain Bonny as an administrative station, and arrangements are being made for the removal of the Bonny Consulate building to Port Harcourt. It has been necessary to retain a police escort in the Nkanu area of the Onitsha Province, and an affray took place in June between the Amaozama and Ishikwe quarters of Oborka. The town was visited by a police escort and an enquiry held under the Collective Punishment Ordinance. The area is quiet but requires careful handling.

42. The new boundary between the Northern and Southern Provinces, affecting the Ogoja and Abakaliki Divisions, has been gazetted.

43. The Ikom District, formerly included in the Obubra Division, has now been constituted a separate Division.

44. Much time has been devoted to the investigation of sub-tribal organisation in the Calabar Province, a particularly intricate problem in some parts of that Province.

45. The Resident of the Cameroons Province reports perfect peace and tempered progress, a concrete proof of which is the decision to withdraw the Bamenda Garrison to Nigeria. Ordinance No. 3 of 1924, the British Cameroons Administration Ordinance, applied the greater part of the law of Nigeria to the Cameroons; this Ordinance has since been recast. The Plantations were put up for auction in London in October, the sale being thrown open to ex-enemy nationals. Upwards of £225,000 was realised. Further progress has been made by means of Assessment Reports, in investigating the tribal characteristics of the various groups inhabiting the Province.

46. In the more backward communities of both groups of Provinces cannibalism and slave dealing still linger on a small scale. Paganism prevails in the south and in all but the Mohammedan areas of the north. It is true that the Christian religion is making some progress among the pagan tribes, and that, among the Yorubas, Mohammedanism (which was established in the Hausa states and Bornu probably as early as the 9th century) is spreading southwards; but the bulk of the pure negro tribes have retained their pagan beliefs, and, although the vigilance of British officials has curtailed or stamped out the worst evils of cannibalism and human sacrifice, several millions of the inhabitants remain believers in a fetish-religion, in which the juju-priest or witch-doctor exercises a baneful influence.

47. Mohammedanism in Nigeria has little of the fanaticism that distinguishes it in other countries. The Fulani *jihad*, led by Othman dan Fodio at the beginning of the 19th century, was largely political in its results (if not in its origin) and the ambitious leaders of this "holy war" did not scruple to attack the rival Muslim state of Bornu. The self-styled Mahdis who have arisen from time to time since the establishment of the British Protectorate have been quickly and severely dealt with by the Mohammedan chiefs, and the entry of the Turks into the war on the side of Germany evoked only spontaneous protestations of loyalty to the British cause from their co-religionists in Nigeria. Within the last few years Indian missionaries of the Ahmadia movement have gained some adherents.

48. One of the principal religious obstacles to the advance of Christianity in tropical Africa is the prevalence and popularity of polygamy. Among the followers of Islam this institution has, of course, the sanction of religion. Among the non-Muslim tribes it has the equally strong sanction of immemorial custom. In West Africa children are assets, rather than liabilities, the daughters being easily marketable as wives at an early age and the sons providing an unpaid labour supply; wives, besides their value as mothers, perform most of the manual labour in the home and on the family farms, but the custom which requires a mother to deny herself to her husband for the period during which she is nursing her child, often from two to three years, is, perhaps, the greatest cause of polygamy. The "Native African Church," modelled in other respects on the Church of England, but allowing to its members a plurality of wives, has met the difficulty of those who wished to adopt the Christian creed without abandoning one of the most cherished of their ancestral customs.

49. It is to be regretted that the *Health of Nigeria* has not maintained the somewhat high standard reached last year. Two serious epidemic diseases have broken out in this Colony, diseases which although not unknown in West Africa, have so far not caused anxiety in this Colony. The first of these is relapsing fever,

which made its appearance in the Northern Provinces during the first quarter of the present year, and was accompanied by a heavy case mortality. So far the disease has been confined to the extreme north, but its method of propagation, namely by body lice, causes grave fears of its extension southwards.

50. The second of these diseases is bubonic plague, which first made its appearance in July, assuming epidemic proportions in September. Energetic measures were taken with a view to confining the disease to Lagos and an active campaign against rats was undertaken. Fortunately, as a death-dealer, the plague did not attain anything approximating the proportion of the Spanish influenza in 1918, and the people have been able to draw a favourable comparison. The outbreak threw a great strain on the Medical and Sanitary Authorities who assumed charge of the situation, and quickly had it well in hand. It also meant a greatly increased volume of work for the officers of the Municipality, notably the Town Engineer, whose promptitude and energy earned him the thanks of Government. The Colony police are also to be congratulated on the manner in which they handled the situation, and met all the calls made upon them. Some ninety rank and file have been continuously employed on this special work, with the minimum of dislocation in the ordinary police duties. So successful have these measures been that at the end of the year it was possible to remove the quarantine restrictions. In addition the re-planning of the worst areas of Lagos town is under contemplation and a large tract of land at Yaba has been acquired for the erection of model dwellings.

51. Throughout Nigeria, occasional outbreaks of small-pox have occurred, but thanks to intensive vaccination, the infected areas are easy to control and give rise to but little anxiety.

52. In the south there would seem to be a distinct decrease in the number of cases of malarial fever, and this is no doubt due to the exceptionally small rainfall experienced this year.

53. In the larger towns much has been done by the Sanitary Staff in educating the inhabitants in the rudiments of Hygiene. Much however remains to be done, and the question of infant welfare in large towns will always be of vital importance. It is only by the education of the people, and tact combined with patience on the side of the Medical Staff, that the natural suspicion of the native can be overcome and health propaganda be made of real value to the Colony.

54. Nigeria participated with success in the *British Empire Exhibition* in 1924, and is again participating in 1925. The Nigerian Section was sited in the West African Walled City and consisted of the Nigerian Pavilion, Cinema, Tea-Chalet, and Native Village. Space within the Pavilion was allocated for the display of agricultural raw products, native industries and curios, palm-oil extracting machinery, and exhibits connected with the

Survey, Mines, Colliery, Forestry, Marine, Railway, Prisons, Printing, and Public Works Departments and various Missions. The Native Village was laid out in the form of Hausa and Yoruba compounds with round and rectangular thatched mud huts, accommodating some fourteen craftsmen and their families.

III.—GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

55. The Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years are as follows :—

	True Revenue.	Credits to Loan Works (Eastern Railway).	True Expenditure.	Expenditure on Loan Works.
	£	£	£	£
1919	4,911,470	47,959	4,352,937	176,239
1920	6,738,042	81,232	6,080,990	412,533
Jan.—Mar., 1921	1,566,748	..	1,431,271	243,082
1921–22	4,869,220	7,026	6,553,553	618,444
1922–23	5,505,465	700	5,410,983	1,098,261
1923–24	6,260,561	..	5,501,242	..

56. The Revenue and Expenditure for the six months from April to September, 1924, amounted to £3,148,682 and £2,719,095 respectively. If the same proportion is maintained during the second six months the Revenue in 1924-25 will exceed slightly that of the previous year. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st March, 1924, was £3,063,335. The Public Debt at 31st March, 1924, was £19,309,209, and the accumulated Sinking Fund amounted to £931,373.

57. The various Native Administrations have their own separate Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, deriving their revenue mainly from their share (normally 50 per cent.) of the native direct taxes, the remainder being paid over to the Government. The surplus funds of the Native Administrations of the Southern Provinces, formerly deposited with the Government, have now been withdrawn and have been invested locally with the Banks. The Native Administrations of the Northern Provinces at present have large sums invested through the Crown Agents and appearing as a liability in the Colony's Balance Sheet. It is expected that these will be removed before long from both the assets and liabilities sides of the account by an arrangement for independent investment.

58. Silver coin to the value of £746,510 was withdrawn from circulation during the year and £780,035 was shipped to the United Kingdom to be melted down. The alloy coin now in circulation is about £3,698,000 and the total currency in circulation is estimated to be approximately £5,827,700.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

59. *Trade*.—The total value of the trade of Nigeria (including specie) during the year was as follows :—

Import	.. ..	£12,635,866
Export	.. ..	15,004,874
		<hr/>
		£27,640,740

an increase of over four millions sterling on the trade of the previous year, and thirteen millions more than that of 1913.

The value of the Transit Trade (*i.e.* goods passing through the inland waters of Nigeria to and from French Territory) was £218,700.

60. Commercial imports, excluding specie, were valued at £10,662,839, while commercial exports amounted to a total of £14,427,727. Imports of specie amounted to nearly two millions sterling and exports were just over half a million. The bulk of the trade was as usual with the United Kingdom which supplied 71 per cent. of the imports and took 60 per cent. of the exports. The United States of America took a large proportion of the cocoa but secured only 5 per cent. of the total trade, while Germany increased her last year's quota to 13 per cent. of the total.

61. Palm produce prices were well maintained throughout the year but there were considerable fluctuations. The exports of palm oil and palm kernels exceeded all previous records by 26,046 tons and 29,846 tons, respectively. Cocoa and groundnut shipments also exceeded all records by 4,375 tons and 20,617 tons, respectively, while the cotton lint yield of 92,786 cwt. has only been exceeded once before (1921). A feature of the cocoa trade was the activity of the Syrian merchants who were buying for the New York market. The trade in tanned sheep and goat skins has practically ceased owing to the high price of the raw skin locally and the low price obtainable for the tanned skin in Europe.

62. Supplies of raw hides have been small during the year and, comparing the exports for 1923 and 1924, the shortage in 1924 is approximately 20,000 hides per month. With regard to raw goat skins, it is satisfactory to be able to record that on the whole the recent improvement in flaying has been maintained. Buying has been pursued with activity throughout the year but the prices paid at Kano have varied only slightly from the prices in Europe. With regard to raw sheep skins the flaying has improved, but the opinion has been expressed that it is not equal to the flaying of the raw goat skin. Buying has proceeded regularly throughout the year, and prices have been steady. It is estimated that about 80 per cent. of the skins exported are tanned in the United States of America. A feature of the hides and skins trade has been the number of alien Arabs employed by certain companies as buyers, chiefly in the towns surrounding Kano.

63. *Legislation.*—The Customs Tariff Ordinance (No. 20 of 1924) revised the Customs import and export tariff.

64. *Agriculture.*—The prices of all the staple export products have remained fairly steady, or risen gradually during the year ; being generally at much the same level as in the years before the war. Thus the fact that record quantities of all products have been exported may justly be regarded as a matter for satisfaction. These heavy exports are the result of the steady extension of modern trade which has occurred during the last year or two in many parts of the country. In the Southern Provinces motor lorries have played an important part in this extension. On some roads in the Southern Provinces competition for such traffic has become keen, and freights are cut to a low level that permits the transport of the export products over greater distances than would previously have been economically feasible with the present market values. In the Northern Provinces the use of pack animals for similar transport has increased steadily, and even there the motor lorry is now coming into use.

65. An increased acreage and heavy yield of groundnuts in the present season 1924-25 is reported.

66. There are indications that, owing to remarkably light rains in the early part of the season, the cocoa crop in parts of the Abeokuta Province will be somewhat below normal in quantity, but it seems likely that a heavy crop in the Oyo Province, together with a slight extension in the areas contributing to the export, will compensate for this. The price of cocoa this season is much higher than last year ; there is reason to fear that this is leading, as a high price so often does, to a low general level in quality. The work of the Department of Agriculture in demonstrating the correct method of preparation and drying, and in organising the co-operative sale of cocoa so prepared, is being carried out on an increased scale, but naturally such a system can only directly cover a small proportion of the total crop.

67. The export of American cotton from the Northern Provinces continues steadily to increase. In the season 1923-24 the export amounted to over 15,000 bales as against 11,000 in the previous season. The price offered in the local markets was high during the busiest weeks of the buying season, but fell seriously before the close. That this fact did not affect the farmers' confidence in cotton growing, is shown, not only by the record areas that have been planted in the current season, but also by the increased attention that is being paid to the early sowing and careful cultivation of the crop. The present buying season (1924-25) has opened with prices at a satisfactory level, though they are lower than the opening prices of last year.

68. The total production of the main food crop—yams and maize—in many parts of the Southern Provinces was undoubtedly lessened by the shortage in the early rains. The shortage of rain

had a serious effect on the crops on the poorer soils, but did not greatly affect those on better land. Naturally the price of food in some of the larger towns has risen, though not to such an extent as could cause any serious hardship.

69. *Land*.—Under an agreement executed between the Imperial Government and the Royal Niger Company at the date of the revocation of the Charter, the latter's successors were allowed to retain certain sites then occupied as trading stations. There are a few such sites in the Southern Provinces, too. With the foregoing exceptions the whole of the land in the Northern Provinces is native land, controlled and administered by the Government. Proprietary rights in land have never been recognised by native law and custom, and legislation enacted since the establishment of the Protectorate provides for the maintenance of that policy. Building and agricultural leases are granted by Government with conditions as to improvements and revision of rent. In making such revision Government is debarred by statute from taking into consideration any improvements made upon a site by the lessee, and from charging more, as rent, for any sites than the amount which is obtainable, as rent, for sites similarly situated and of equal areas. If the rent is raised on revision, the lessee may appeal to the Provincial Court or to the Governor, who will appoint an arbitrator. If the occupier is dissatisfied he may surrender his lease, and the Governor may award such compensation for unexhausted improvements as in his discretion he may think fit.

70. In the Southern Provinces native lands are not at the disposal and under the control of the Governor in the same way as in the Northern Provinces, but land may not be leased to a non-native except with the consent of the Governor. Large tracts suitable for agriculture are available, but it is essential that anyone who desires to cultivate rubber or any other permanent crop should first visit Nigeria and ascertain the actual conditions.

V.—INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

71. *Forestry*.—The system of exploiting timber is by selection felling subject to a minimum girth limit. Throughout the year prices for good quality timber have remained firm. In July there was a good deal of lower grade defective timber on the market for which the demand was small, but by September there was a noticeable advance in prices in all grades. The rains in the creek districts have also been heavier than usual enabling the firms operating to extract logs from the more inaccessible areas.

72. The Forestry Department exhibited at the British Empire Exhibition specimens of all timber which it was hoped might in the future have a sale in the home and foreign markets. Many enquiries were received for the so-called African Walnut, and steps were taken by Government to encourage the export of this species

and to assist in placing it on the market by remitting, for a period, the timber fees payable on this class of tree. Many of the other Nigerian woods which were shown in the form of planks and not, as in the case of the so-called Walnut (*Sida*) and African Teak (*Iroko*), made up into furniture or panels, brought enquiries, and it is hoped that eventually these lesser known timbers may secure a market in England as furniture woods even though they cannot profitably compete with other species of timber imported for building purposes. It is encouraging to know that already a small demand has arisen on the home market for certain of these timbers.

73. The planting season has on the whole been good in spite of the irregularity of the rains. Efforts to encourage natural regeneration of the more valuable timber species by clearing undergrowth in small selected areas of high forest, have met with considerable success. Progress has been made in the constitution of Forest Reserves and at the present time a number of areas are about to be gazetted while others are in various stages of settlement. No real interest has been shown in the exploitation of minor forest products such as rubber, fibre, etc.

74. *Mining*.—During the year there were 59 mining companies and 43 individual workers operating on tin ; two companies and four individuals were also prospecting for, or winning, gold. The average number of persons employed throughout the year in the mining industry was 219 Europeans and 22,481 natives, an increase of over 4,000 in the number of natives working on the field in 1923. The tendency towards the introduction of machinery continues. The output of tin ore from the mines was approximately 8,800 tons, and approximately 9,000 tons of ore were exported from Nigeria during the year, the value of which is estimated at £1,425,800. The price of tin varied from £228 10s. 0d. per ton on 1st July, 1924, to £257 10s. 0d. per ton on 1st April, 1924 ; and was £274 12s. 6d. per ton on 1st January, 1925. The corresponding figures for 1923 were, minimum £177 on 1st July 1923, and maximum £219 5s. 0d. on 1st April, 1923, and the output in 1923 was 8,372 tons.

75. The output of gold was 1,415 ounces as against 956 ounces in 1923. Towards the end of the year work was closed down in Birnin Gwari.

76. The output of coal from the Udi Coalfields (Government owned) for the year 1924 was 201,932 tons. The main coal seam is worked by two separately ventilated mines, one situated at Enugu and the other in the Iva Valley. The average thickness of this seam has increased to four feet six inches and the coal is improving as the working faces advance from the outcrop. Each mine has its own railway sidings connecting with the main line which runs between Port Harcourt and the Benue River. Underground haulage is done by four main haulage gears and the ventilation is produced by mechanical fans. Electric power

was installed at Udi Colliery in September and the one additional electric underground haulage equipment installed. The coal is sub-bituminous in nature and of good quality. The volatile percentage is high. There is very little ash and the coal does not clinker. Specific gravity is 1·28.

77. The Geological Survey continued its investigations in both the Northern and the Southern Provinces. On the central tin-fields work was extended to the Pankshin Division of Bauchi Province and to eastern Zaria. The structure of western Bornu was investigated from the point of view of its water-bearing possibilities. The Calabar tinfield was visited and the survey of the Eastern Railway completed between Port Harcourt and Enugu. A new series of coal-bearing beds was discovered between Bende and the Cross River. Three Bulletins were published in the course of the year, dealing respectively with the geology of the Nassarawa and Ilorin tinfields, the Enugu coalfield and the phosphate deposits of Abeokuta Province. A Bulletin on the geology of the southern section of the Eastern Railway was prepared for the press, and arrangements made for the publication of two short papers on the lignites of the Southern Provinces and on certain vertebrate remains from the Northern Provinces (Sokoto).

78. *Fisheries*.—The rivers and creeks teem with fish, and a large number of persons are employed in fishing, chiefly for local consumption. Small quantities of fish are crudely cured and traded with the towns distant from the river, where this form of food is highly prized. There is very little sea fishing. Before the War a steam trawler was working off Lagos, and a large quantity of fish of excellent quality was obtained.

70. *Water power* is little used in Nigeria. In the Southern parts of Nigeria there is little fall in the rivers, but on the Bauchi Plateau there is a considerable amount of power available and there is at last some promise that use will be made of it for the production of electricity.

80. *Manufactures*.—With the exception of a soap factory at Apapa there are no manufactures in Nigeria on a commercial scale. Earthenware and brassware are made for local use and for sale as curios. Leather is worked and a certain amount of cloth is woven from locally grown cotton. The produce of the country is exported almost entirely in a raw state, such little preparation as is necessary being done by hand.

VI.—BANKS.

81. Banking interests are represented in Nigeria by the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., which was established in 1894, and by the Colonial Bank, which extended its operations to Nigeria in 1917. Both Banks undertake all kinds of banking business.

82. *Savings Banks*.—A Government Savings Bank is worked and controlled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, but very

little advantage is taken of the facilities for the purposes of thrift. Savings Bank business is also transacted by the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank.

VII.—LEGISLATION.

83. The British Cameroons Administration Ordinance (No. 3 of 1924) applied to the British Cameroons the greater part of the Laws of Nigeria with the necessary modifications. This Ordinance has since been recast.

84. The Customs Tariff Ordinance (No. 20 of 1924) revised the Customs import and export tariffs.

85. The Liquor (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21 of 1924) varied the definition of "Trade Spirits."

86. The British Cameroons Ex-Enemy Immoveable Property Disposal Ordinance (No. 22 of 1924) legalised the acquisition by ex-enemy nationals, or corporations under ex-enemy control, of titles in ex-enemy immoveable property in the British Cameroons.

87. The Niger Transit Ordinance (No. 24 of 1924) made provision for the passing of vessels and goods in transit between the sea and places beyond Nigeria, *via* the River Niger, or in the case of goods, partly *via* the River Niger and partly by land.

88. The Wild Animals Preservation (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 28 of 1924) varied the provisions of the principal Ordinance especially as regards ivory and rhinoceros horn.

89. The German Missions Ordinance (No. 29 of 1924) made the necessary provision for giving effect to Article 438 of the Treaty of Peace with Germany as to the property of Christian Religious Missions formerly maintained by Germans in the British Cameroons.

90. The Immigration Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance, (No. 31 of 1924) made some important alterations in the law relating to immigration, in particular bringing the regulations as to passports into line with corresponding regulations in the Empire and extending to natives a number of the restrictions upon immigration.

91. The Land (Perpetual Succession) Ordinance (No. 32 of 1924) made provision enabling trustees of corporate bodies to be appointed and to have perpetual succession and to hold land.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

92. There are in Nigeria a number of primary schools which have been established and are conducted by Government. These have for the most part attained a very fair standard of efficiency. In addition a large number of schools belonging to the important missionary societies afford a similar education on lines laid

down in the Government Education Code. These are known as "Assisted Schools," and are regularly inspected and examined by officers of the Education Department. Annual grants are made to them from the public funds, the amount being determined according to the reports of Inspectors on the efficiency of the school, and its average attendance.

93. There also exist a large number of schools which are not inspected or controlled in any way by Government. Most of them are connected with the several missionary bodies, and some are of a private venture character. Speaking generally, the education afforded by these schools is of little or no value, being carried on by teachers who have no real qualifications or competency to undertake such work. Many of the private schools, which are of local growth and not connected with the well-known missionary societies, are not only valueless, but often detrimental to the work of education. To these general statements there are exceptions: some of the schools are making efforts to improve their staff and equipment, and to qualify for admission to the Assisted List.

94. The demand for schools is great throughout the country. Most of the existing schools in Lagos and other large towns are overcrowded, and the supply by no means meets the demand. As a rule parents in country districts are apathetic with regard to the education of their children, and decline to make any provision to enable them to attend school. This, however, is slowly breaking down in the immediate neighbourhood of the more efficient schools.

95. Considerable progress has been made in recent years in the matter of female education. There are several girls' schools in Lagos and the Yoruba country, and in the Calabar and Onitsha districts, which are conducted by European principals. With one or two exceptions these schools are on the Assisted List and under Government inspection. The majority provide accommodation for boarders, and are doing excellent work.

96. Numerous Mohammedan schools exist in which the entire time of the pupils is given to writing and learning portions of the Koran. In a few of them the reading and writing of Hausa, in Roman character, and arithmetic, are also taught.

97. King's College, Lagos, is the only Government establishment which is confined to secondary education. It was established by Government in 1909, to provide a secondary education for those desiring to continue their studies beyond the primary school stage. Entrance to the College is by examination. Scholarships and Exhibitions, entitling holders to free education at the College and tenable for four years, are awarded annually to candidates who obtain the highest marks at an examination held for the purpose. Additional buildings are in course of erection and should be ready for use early in 1925. They comprise laboratories for physics and chemistry, additional class rooms, and accommoda-

tion for boarders. Provision is also being made for lecture rooms which will be available for day and evening classes for technical students and apprentices in the Government Technical Departments.

98. In the Southern Provinces, provision is made for the training of teachers at Bonny and Warri Government Schools, the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar (United Free Church of Scotland Mission), St. Andrew's College, Oyo (C.M.S.), Wesley College, Ibadan (Wesleyan), C.M.S. Training College, Awka, and the R.C. Training Institute, Ibadan. These training institutions are for residential students, under the direction of European principals and are conducted in accordance with the regulations laid down in the Education Code. There are also two or three other training establishments belonging to missionary societies which are not connected with Government or in receipt of a grant from public funds. Evening continuation classes for teachers in the Lagos schools are regularly held at King's College. Vacation classes in elementary agriculture for teachers are held in July and December at Calabar and Onitsha. The instruction, both theoretical and practical, is given by officers of the Agricultural Department, and certificates are awarded to those who succeed in passing the examinations. In the majority of the Government and assisted schools such instruction as is possible is given in manual and agricultural training. The Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, has departments for carpentry, printing, and tailoring.

99. Education in the Northern Provinces is steadily gaining ground and every encouragement is being given to the inauguration of small rural Schools in all Emirates. The staff of European Superintendents has at last been brought up to the full establishment and the problem of keeping up an adequate staff of native Teachers is being dealt with effectively in the Katsina Training College, which the Governor formally opened on the 5th of March, 1922. The number of pupils undergoing the course of training has now increased to forty-eight.

IX.—CLIMATE.

100. The seasons in Nigeria depend rather on the rainfall than on temperature. They are as a rule well defined. The "dry season" with its attendant "Harmattan" commences in the north of the country in October, and ends in April. It is of shorter duration in the south, and at Lagos generally lasts from November to March with only intermittent "Harmattan." The "Harmattan" is a dry north-easterly wind which brings with it a thick haze composed of minute particles of dust and shell. During the "Harmattan" the nights and early mornings are cold, but the days are very hot, and it is during this period that the maximum diurnal variations occur.

101. Generally speaking, the lowest mean temperature is in the months of July and August, and the lowest minimum recorded temperature at the beginning and end of the year. The highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in March and April. In most cases the difference in range between the maximum and minimum temperature is greater in proportion to the distance of a station from the coast.

102. At the end of the "dry season" numerous tornados herald the approach of the "rainy season." Before a tornado the air is oppressively close and heavy; the tornado itself, which is scarcely more than a heavy squall, lasts but a short time and is accompanied and followed by a thunderstorm and rain. The "rainy season" lasts until October, with a slight break in August, and is followed by another short tornado season. In the south the prevailing wind during this season is from the south-west, and with it comes the rain, which is remarkably heavy along the coast and decreases rapidly as it travels inland.

103. The most notable feature of the climate for 1924 was the absence of rain in Lagos during the "wet" season and the general low average for the year, *i.e.* 50 in. against an average of 72 in. ; June being the driest June recorded in Lagos for 30 years, whereas October with 16 in. was one of the wettest Octobers ever recorded. The average annual rainfall at Forcados on the Niger Delta is 150 in. At Lokoja, situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue, it is 48 in., and at Sokoto, in the north-west of Nigeria it is only 25 in.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

(INCLUDES REFERENCES TO MISCELLANEOUS WORKS).

104. *Railways.*—The Railway is divided into two divisions, the Western Division with its terminus at Iddo and the Eastern Division terminating at Port Harcourt. The Western Division provides a direct rail route between the port of Lagos and Kano, 704½ miles from the coast and serves the important towns of Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ilorin, Minna, Kaduna, and Zaria. A branch line of 2 ft. 6 in. gauge connects Zaria with the Tin Fields of the Bauchi Plateau, terminating at Bukuru (143 miles). Baro on the Niger River is served by a line branching from the main line at Minna, forming an outlet for traffic at the former port (111 miles.)

105. A Motor Transport Service with Headquarters at Ibadan connects the latter place with the towns of Oyo, 33 miles, and Iseyin, 60 miles ; and from Oyo a connecting service with Ogbo-mosho, a distance of 33 miles, is in operation. In the Northern territory services run between Bukuru, on the Bauchi Plateau, and the following places :—Ropp Mines, 22 miles, Mongu Mines, 32 miles, Ex-lands Mines, 27 miles and Jos a distance of 10 miles. A new service of light vans is now in operation between Zaria and Gusau, a distance of 114 miles.

106. The Eastern line, running from Port Harcourt on the Bonny Estuary, connects with Makurdi (291 miles) and serves the important Udi Coalfields at Enugu at 151 miles. This line is being extended to join up with the Western Division at Kakuri at a distance of 563 miles from Port Harcourt. The first section of this extension, Enugu to Makurdi on the Benue River (141 miles) was opened for traffic on the 1st August, 1924.

107. It is proposed to construct a branch line approximately 51 miles in length from a point near Kagoro, on the extension mentioned in the previous paragraph, to Jos on the Bauchi Light Railway. This branch, when constructed, will connect Jos with the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge and provide a direct route from the Tin Fields to Lagos and Port Harcourt. Preliminary work has been carried out in traffic and reconnaissance surveys of promising areas for new branches of the western line.

108. It is estimated that the gross earnings during 1924 amounted to £1,931,633 and the working expenditure to £897,070, making the estimated net receipts £1,034,563 against Debt Charges amounting to some £879,201. The method of presenting these statistics is however under re-examination. The total number of passengers carried was approximately 1,742,289 and approximately 725,822 tons of goods and minerals were handled.

109. There are now 151 stations opened for public traffic, 121 of which are on the Western Division and thirty on the Eastern Division. Fifteen new stations have been opened during the year 1924. The permanent staff of the Railway includes 392 Europeans. The African salaried staff numbers 1,646, and 10,962 artisans and labourers are employed.

110. The organisation of the Railway has recently been under examination by a special commissioner whose report has been published.

111. *Harbours, Rivers and Creeks.*—Only maintenance work has been carried out on the moles and training bank at the entrance to Lagos Harbour. The dredger *The Lady Clifford* has been employed throughout the year dredging in the entrance when weather conditions permitted and on the shoal patches in the channels inside the harbour. The Eastern Spit has given no further trouble, although it has decreased little if anything in area. Whenever the dredger ceases work on the edges of this spit for any length of time it shows tendencies of extending into the channel, but no difficulty has been experienced in reducing it within bounds again when the dredger has returned to the vicinity. The shoal patches in the centre of the channel that kept forming last year have not reappeared this year. The general depth in the entrance has been maintained at about 25 ft. The official draught for vessels entering and leaving the Port was 22 ft. until 15th December when it was raised to 23 ft. Inside the Harbour, dredging has been carried out by the *Child* in the Apapa Crossing, by the *Queen Mary* in the Customs Channel, the *Commodore*

Channel, and the Pool, and by the *Sandgrouse* and *The Lady Clifford* in the Commodore Channel and the Pool. The spoil picked up by the *Child* and *Queen Mary* was pumped on shore at Iddo Island by the *Romulus* where valuable areas are being reclaimed; that picked up by the *Sandgrouse* and *The Lady Clifford* was dumped at sea. The mooring berths in the harbour were deepened by the above dredging so as to make the 22 ft. draught practically general; and by placing mooring buoys in the pool a berth with a 23 ft. draught was made possible. The governing factor in the question of draughts is not the Bar but the channels and berths inside the harbour. A draught of 23 ft. is now possible up to the new Apapa wharf which should be ready for use next year.

112. Early in December the dredger *Sandgrouse* proceeded to Forcados to deepen the Burutu channel, about which complaints had been received from the Niger Company.

113. A survey of Forcados Bar was made in March. This confirmed the results of the rough survey made last year. This bar has altered considerably in the last twenty years. It is now two and a half miles north of where it was in 1904, and is two and a quarter miles across instead of three-fourths of a mile. The depth of water is now only 15 ft. as against 18 ft. at Low Water Ordinary Springs in 1904. Almost of greater importance as a deterrent to navigation than the shoaling of this bar (and since 1913 it has not shoaled very much) is the increasing length of the crossing. A vessel can bump over a short bar with little damage to herself and little risk of losing her way altogether and becoming unmanageable, but with a bar over two miles across it is a different matter. A German steamer, the *Martha Woermann*, in attempting to cross this bar on the evening of 9th July became unmanageable, drifted into the lee breakers and became a total wreck.

114. Waterway clearing was carried out during the year in the Sudd Region, the Imo River, and the Niger River and some of its tributaries. Further blasting work was also carried out on the middle Niger in the Bubara Rapids. The launch routes throughout the Delta have been kept clear and open to navigation.

115. The buoyage of the coast, the river entrances and the navigable rivers, has been well maintained during the year. A second automatic gas light buoy has been laid off Forcados River entrance. A new flashing light was installed in the Lagos Light-house which is a great improvement on the old fixed one. The lights in the British Cameroons have also been overhauled and improved.

116. Regular Mail and Transport services were maintained by Government between the following places :—Lagos to Sapele and Forcados, Baro to Lokoja and Onitsha, Port Harcourt to Opobo, and Port Harcourt to Degema and Brass. An intermittent cargo

service was also maintained from Burutu to Warri and Niger stations as far as Lokoja. A low water service has also been run on the Cross River between Itu and Ikom in connexion with the service run by Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company.

117. *Shipping*.—Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company, Limited, have maintained regular services for passengers, mails and cargo throughout the year between the United Kingdom and Nigeria, also between Continental and American ports and Nigeria. The steamers of the Bull West Africa Line, Chargeurs Réunis, Deutscher Afrika-Dienst (Woermann Linie), Holland West Africa Lijn, John Holt & Co., Ltd., "Roma" Societa de Navigazione, and Société Navale de l'Ouest compete to a certain extent, but Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company, Limited, may be said to have captured the bulk of the shipping trade. A certain number of foreign steamers, chiefly Scandinavian, have been chartered by some of the large firms. The total tonnage of cargo landed and shipped during the year was over 900,000 tons as compared with 800,000 tons in 1923, and the number of vessels which entered and cleared was 533 entered and 522 cleared, as compared with 557 entered, and 552 cleared, in 1923. In the latter part of the year, by general agreement among the Shipping Companies, all freight rates were increased by about fifty per cent.

118. *Roads and Bridges*.—The Government has constructed a number of wide motor roads which can be used throughout the year by light cars and in the dry season by heavy lorries, and the whole country is covered with a network of "bush paths" which are seldom wide enough for two persons to walk abreast, but along which, nevertheless, it is possible to ride bicycles or motor bicycles. Work on new main roads and bridging was continued throughout Nigeria and several steel bridges of large spans were successfully launched. The value of good motor routes is indicated by the material increase in motor transport, an increase however which will obviously necessitate improvement of existing routes to take heavier traffic. In the Abeokuta Province good progress was made on the Abeokuta-Kajola-Asha road, and in the Ijebu Province the road from Iperu to Shagamu (in the Colony) was completed. In the Ondo Province the Ado road was completed to Iyapa; it will be continued to Awtun to link with the Ilorin-Awtun road. In the Ilorin Province, work on bridges for the Native Administration was continued. Owing to delay in the delivery of the 120 ft. steel span, the Oshin River Bridge on the Ilorin-Share road could not be launched until the dry season. The Oke-Ode-Ajasse-Lafiagi road was opened to traffic to Ogunji (24 miles), and with the exception of the decking to bridges beyond 39 miles, the main bridges have been completed to Lafiagi (69 miles). In the Oyo Province, bridges on the road from Iseyin to Eruwa Road Station have been commenced; this work is being done for Government by the Native Administration and under the supervision of its Engineer.

119. Ten bridges have been completed on the road from Awgu in the Onitsha Province to Okigwi in Owerri Province. The 145 ft. single span bridge over the Imo River in the Owerri Province was successfully launched, and the road from Umuahia Station to Augana on the Owerri-Okigwi road is nearly complete.

120. With the exception of the replacement and improvement of two or three culverts, the Kano-Katsina road is complete. The new road connecting the Kano-Katsina and Daura roads was completed.

121. The bridge of two 100 ft. steel spans over the Farin Rua at the end of the Keffi-Akwanga-Farin Rua road was finished and four additional bridges on this road were practically complete. Three bridges on the Jos-Bauchi road and one bridge near Bauchi on the Bauchi-Yelwa road were completed. When last inspected, the first half of the Jos-Bauchi road, which is maintained by Administrative Officers, was in excellent condition; and under similar supervision the last half of the road (together with culverts) is being constructed.

122. In the Cameroons the Victoria-Buea road with a branch to Tiko has been completed and an old bridge at Idenau reconstructed.

123. *Posts and Telegraphs.*—There has been a marked increase of all Post Office Services which have been satisfactorily carried out. The internal mail services have been increased and accelerated, in the Southern Provinces mainly by means of motor transport, and in the Northern Provinces by the extension of the 'village to village' runner system. Construction of telegraphs between Makurdi on the River Benue and Kaduna has been carried on. The scheme for the recruitment of Assistant Telegraph Engineers sanctioned in 1921 came into full operation in 1924 and proved a great success.

124. *Surveys.*—Many native land areas and disputed boundaries were delineated. The survey of Exclusive Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases in the Minesfield area progressed satisfactorily, and the opening of a Survey Department Office at Jos, the business centre of the Minesfield, was found to be a convenience to the mining community. The revision of the Townships of Lagos, Warri, Enugu and Port Harcourt and a survey of the proposed Township of Victoria were undertaken. The splitting into sections, and the demarcation of plots on the land acquired at Ebute Metta and Yaba was proceeded with and a considerable proportion of the area was marked out. The preliminary survey for the Sokoto Irrigation Report and final recommendation was started. Main Triangulation was started and an area of about 3,800 square miles was covered. The Topographical survey of the area in the Onitsha Province to meet the requirements of the Director of Geological Survey was commenced in November and

good progress was made. The severity of the storms at the beginning of the wet season and the subsequent mists covering the high ranges of hills, with the flooding of the Niger and Benue Valleys, impeded progress to a certain extent.

125. *Public Works.*—In Lagos the redecking of the Customs Wharf and fencing of the Customs premises were completed ; a boarding house for students and a laboratory at King's College, the St. Anna's Court House, and the new Stores for the Public Works Department at Iddo were approaching completion ; and the Massey Street Dispensary, the extension to the Yaba Lunatic Asylum and the new ferry wharf on the Marina were put in hand. At Ibadan, a new rest-house was completed, and the laboratory at Moor Plantations for the Agricultural Department is practically complete. At Port Harcourt a new Customs Office, Offices for the Commissioner of Police and for the Marine and Marine Staff quarters were completed. At Enugu a store and workshop for the Posts and Telegraphs was completed. The laboratory and other buildings and the Water Supply for the Veterinary Establishment at Vom were completed, but commencement on the Stock farm project has been deferred pending further consideration of the site. Additions to the Native Hospital at Kaduna and Sisters' Quarters at the European Hospital at Port Harcourt were completed, and the Native Hospital buildings at Kano were well in hand.

126. The work of providing quarters for European and African Officers was continued and on the Governor's instructions a series of improved designs were prepared for future use.

127. Excellent progress was made with the Water Supply Scheme at Enugu. The headworks commenced on 1st September were completed by 30th September and the five miles of supply pipe laid by 25th October. The foundations for the reservoir were complete and the floor and walls are under construction. A commencement has been made with the distribution mains. It may be of interest to note that pipes cast in England on 10th August were laid and caulked in the Supply main on 15th October. This work was commenced on 25th July, 1924, and will be completed by 30th April, 1925, the revised estimate of the cost being £34,000. Investigations for the Kano Water Supply are still being pursued. Within a radius of fifty miles the country has been closely prospected with the hope that a satisfactory source providing a gravitation supply could be located. Possible sources have been discovered and the question of details and costs is now being examined

H. O. S. WRIGHT,

Senior Assistant Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

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1224	St. Helena	"
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92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1246.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1923-24.

(For Report for 1922-23 see No. 1199.)



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No. 1246.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923-24.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

The Gilbert Islands were proclaimed as a British Protectorate by Commanding Officer H. M. Davis, of H.M.S. "Royalist," on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, at Abemama, on 27th May, 1892. The Ellice Islands were declared a Protectorate in September of the same year.

The jurisdiction of the Resident Commissioner of the Protectorate was extended to Ocean Island by a proclamation issued on 28th November, 1900.

By the expressed desire of the native governments, the first two groups were annexed to, and formed part of, His Majesty's dominions by an Order in Council of 10th November, 1915, and were known as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony as from 12th January, 1916. Ocean, Fanning and Washington Islands were included within the boundaries of the Colony by an Order of His Majesty in Council of 27th January, 1916, which came into operation on 3rd April of that year.

The Union Group of Islands was brought in by Order in Council of 29th February, 1916, operating from 5th May, 1916.

Christmas Island was also included in the Colony by Order in Council of 30th July, 1919, taking effect from the 10th November, 1919.

The total population of the Colony at the census of April, 1921, was 29,897, of whom 264 were Europeans, 348 Asiatics, and 29,285 Pacific Island natives. The first included 74 females, and the last 14,205.

Ocean Island (Paanopa or Banaba), in latitude 0° 52' S., longitude 169° 35' E., about 1,500 acres in extent, is the headquarters of the Government and the site of operation of the

British Phosphate Commission, whose further interests in the Central Pacific are represented at Nauru, an island under mandate, and about eighteen hours distant by average steaming. The total population of the island in 1921 was 1,785. Of these 115 were Europeans, 80 of whom were men, and 65 of this latter number employees of the British Phosphate Commission. The natives totalled 1,356, of these 546 being Banabans, and 672 representing the Gilbertese employees of the British Phosphate Commission. Besides this labour force, the Commission recruit men from China, of whom there were 312 at Ocean Island at the census.

The Gilbert Group is comprised of the following sixteen islands :—Makin, Butaritari, Marakei, Abaiang, Tarawa, Maiana, Kuria, Aranuka, and Abemama (Northern Gilberts) ; Nonouti and Tabiteuea (Central Gilberts); Onotoa, Beru, Nukunau, Tamana, and Arorae (Southern Gilberts).

The Ellice Islands are the following nine :—Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti, Nukulaelae, and Nurakita.

The two groups consist of a series of coral atolls lying between 4° N. latitude and 10° S. and 170° to 180° E. longitude, with an area of 180 square miles. The principal export is copra.

The total population of the Gilberts at the census was 23,318. Of these, 75 were Europeans, 23 Asiatics and 23,220 natives, of whom 11,791 were males. The Ellice Group held 3,457 souls, 22 of whom were Europeans, 6 Asiatics, 3,429 natives, 1,706 of the last being males. The natives are of Malayo-Polynesian race. The majority are adherents either of the London Missionary Society or the Roman Catholic Mission of the Sacred Heart. With few exceptions the hereditary chieftainships have ceased to exist, but each island has its own native government, presided over by a native magistrate. A revised code of native laws is validated by an Ordinance of the Colony, and law and order is well maintained under the general supervision of European officials. Revenue is obtained from a copra tax, trading and other licences, import and export duties, non-native capitation tax, etc. There is no similarity between the languages of the Gilbert and Ellice Groups.

The three islands of Atafu, Nukunono and Fakaofo, lying about 9° S. latitude and 170° W. longitude, comprise the Union Group, with a population of 989 natives, 498 of whom were males. The language is closely allied to that of the Ellice Group. Nearly all the natives are adherents of the London Missionary Society or the Roman Catholic Samoan Mission. Copra is the only export. Native governments have been established as in the Gilbert and Ellice Groups. A district officer supervises the Ellice and Union Groups, but communication between them is limited to about three calls a year.

Fanning and Washington Islands lie about $3^{\circ} 51'$ N. latitude, and $159^{\circ} 21'$ W. longitude. There is no indigenous population, but labour is recruited from the Gilbert Islands for the copra industry. There were 102 of these at the 1921 census. A district officer is in charge of these islands under the Resident Commissioner. On Fanning Island is the mid-ocean station of the Pacific Cable Board, whose employees and their wives comprise practically the entire European population of fifty. There is no regular communication between these islands and the rest of the colony; periodical visits are made for engaging and repatriating labour by a small auxiliary vessel of the Fanning Island Company.

Christmas Island, about $1^{\circ} 59'$ N. latitude, $157^{\circ} 30'$ W. longitude, lies 164 miles south-east by east of Fanning Island. Under the terms of a licence dated 27th October, 1914, the Central Pacific Coconut Plantations, Limited, of London, were granted the exclusive right to occupy the island for their own use for the planting of coconuts, the manufacture of copra, the export of coconut oil, pearl shell and guano during the term of eighty-seven years from the 1st January, 1914. The population in 1920 was thirty-seven, fifteen of whom were Europeans, and the remainder Tahitians. In 1922 there were four Europeans and twenty-eight Tahitians. The port of entry for Christmas Island is Fanning Island, so that all inward entries and outward clearances must be made at the latter port.

The first visit of inspection by a district officer since the inclusion of Christmas Island within the Colony was made in March, 1922, in H.M.S. "Calcutta." There is a road about sixty miles in length, and the Company owns two motor cars, which are in use. There are said to be 60,000 acres, of which 1,200 are under coconuts, with seventy-five trees to the acre. There are no postal arrangements, the only mails that reach the island being carried by the ships chartered by Mr. Rougier, the lessee, in Tahiti.

II.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Matters remain substantially as reported in 1922–23, that is to say, that the cost of living remains high and that there has been no appreciable improvement in the copra market.

No epidemic has been prevalent in the Colony during the period under review.

The climate of all the Groups is fairly healthy for Europeans, but the natives suffer from lung diseases, especially pulmonary tuberculosis. A considerable amount of medical work has been undertaken of late years, and a central hospital is maintained at Tarawa in the Gilbert Group. Every island has a native hospital under the charge of a native student trained at the Tarawa Hospital. In 1923 the High Commissioner extended an invitation to the International Health Board of the Rockefeller

Foundation to make a health survey of the Colony with special reference to hookworm infection. Dr. S. M. Lambert, M.D., the Board's representative, was given the opportunity to carry out this survey during the visit of the "Pioneer" in 1924 mentioned below.

During the period under review there were at Ocean Island eighteen marriages, eighteen deaths, and thirty-seven births amongst the native population.

The population of Ocean Island at the end of the period under review was as follows :—

	Euro- peans.	Gil- bertese.	Bana- bans.	Asiatics.	Others.	Total.
Men ...	68	651	151	409	2	1,281
Women	22	218	174	—	—	414
Children	21	232	208	—	3	464
Total	111	1,101	533	409	5	2,159

III.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Colony for the year ended 30th June, 1924, was £53,792 8s. 2d., being an increase of £9,319 8s. 11d. on the total for the preceding year.

The total expenditure was £40,820 10s. 1d., being a decrease of £10,987 14s. 2d. compared with the year 1922-23.

The total revenue and expenditure for the past five years has been as follows :—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1919-20	32,182	7	10	31,348	13	0
1920-21	54,079	9	5	45,379	13	0
1921-22	49,143	17	4	55,221	4	9
1922-23	44,472	19	3	51,808	4	3
1923-24	53,792	8	2	40,820	10	1

The assets and liabilities on the 30th June, 1924, were as follows :—

Statement.

	Assets.			Liabilities.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash—						
In Hand and at Bank	7,999	3	5	—		
Drafts and Remittances	4,118	14	5	—		
Deposits	—			28,366	5	1
Advances	—			1,865	9	4
Suspense A/c.	—			232	16	3
Unallocated Stores A/c.	903	17	0	—		
Imprest A/c.	50	0	0	—		
Investments—						
Fixed Deposits	—			—		
Crown Agents	20,429	0	7	—		
Banaban Royalties	18,030	17	10	—		
Fakaafu Natives	157	17	1	—		
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ...	—			21,224	19	8
	£51,689	10	4	51,689	10	4

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

With copra as the only product of the islands in the various groups, a stationary market in this commodity, and a maintenance of the high cost of trade goods, trade has remained dull.

No special development of the phosphate industry at Ocean Island has occurred during the period under review; 189,475 tons of phosphate have been exported (as against 134,350 tons last year) as follows :—

<i>Tons.</i>				<i>To.</i>
116,475	...	...	...	Australia
16,300	...	...	...	Europe
13,250	...	...	...	New Zealand
43,450	...	...	...	Japan
<hr/>				
Total	189,475			
<hr/>				

Returns of imports and exports for the years 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24 are shown in the following statements:—

Imports.

Commodity.	Value.		
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.*
Spirits, Wines, Fermented	£	£	£
Liquors, etc.	2,310	4,114	2,957
Perfumery	637	394	370
Benzine... ..	2,133	1,404	1,601
Kerosene	1,449	1,192	1,199
Oils	2,991	3,443	3,536
Explosives	710	962	963
Tobacco	6,894	8,879	7,549
Jewellery	63	233	97
Drapery	20,466	12,576	11,589
Building Material	9,387	9,616	6,839
Provisions	48,121	42,698	35,789
Hardware	16,605	6,950	12,040
Bicycles	151	99	52
Machinery	4,025	3,644	6,280
Photographic Material	84	82	75
Anchor and Chains	3,699	557	498
Wire Rope	349	582	16
Miscellaneous	30,328	29,703	17,695
Total	£150,402	137,128	109,145

* Incomplete owing to lack of returns.

Exports.

Commodity.	1921-22.		1922-23.		1923-24.	
	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £
Phosphate	149,961	224,942	134,350	201,525	189,475	246,318
Copra	7,530	102,933	5,928	89,396	3,716	54,951
Shark Fins	3	228	2	165	2½	276
	—	328,103	—	291,086	—	301,545

V.—BANKS.

The Ocean Island Agency of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia was opened on the 2nd May, 1922. The Savings Bank Department has progressed, indicating that the opening of the Bank was a benefit to the community. The rate of interest on current accounts is 3½% per annum on deposits up to £1,000, and on fixed deposits from 4% to 5% per annum.

VI.—EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS.

The Banaban School at Ocean Island has done nine months' work only owing to the changing of teachers. Certain hindrances to advancement are not easy to overcome in a day school where native boys are daily in contact with practically European conditions, and it may be necessary later to make other provisions for education at Ocean Island. A new school building has been erected to replace the old one. The same site had to be built on; though not completely satisfactory a more suitable one is not available. The health of the boys has been fair; minor epidemics necessitated the closing of the school for two short periods. Medical inspection and lessons in hygiene will be a special feature for the coming year.

Roll :—

Banabans	41
Gilbertese	12
	<hr/>
Total	53
	<hr/>

Bairiki School has done a full year's school work. Except for ordinary replacements no further building need be done. The health of the boys has been very good. Indigenous food is collected and forwarded to the school and this scheme is working quite satisfactorily in so far as conditions allow.

The Ellice School has done little school work. Owing to the failure of the indigenous food supply it was found necessary to move the school from Funafuti to a new locality on the island of Vaitupu. The land for this new site was given free of rent by the natives of Vaitupu. In addition they gave extensive food pits for the exclusive use of the school, and are assisting in the building work. This generosity is typical of this island and much thanks indeed are due to them. The Ellice Islanders have been raising £3,000 to pay for erecting and equipping the school, and this stresses their keenness for education. It is hoped that the Ellice School will be completed and running well before the end of 1925.

General.

Mission education and Grants in Aid from the Government continue as before, and of the value of the Missions' endeavour for education there is no question. Some improvement in the quality and scope of the secular tuition at Mission Schools is to be desired. Improvement must necessarily be gradual. Lack of communication during the year has made the visiting of most Mission Schools unfeasible.

Government Schools have been inspected during the year. The extending of technical and industrial training in schools will be essential in the near future.

VII.—CLIMATE.

The average rainfall for the Colony is about 130 inches a year, the bulk of which falls in the westerly seasons between late September and early April.

Appended is a record of the rainfall in the period under review :—

1923.						<i>Inches.</i>
July	...	...	...	...	...	5.54
August	...	...	...	...	...	17.05
September	...	...	...	...	...	1.96
October	...	...	...	...	...	5.42
November	...	...	...	...	...	11.77
December	...	...	...	...	...	15.81
1924.						
January	...	...	...	...	...	31.17
February	...	...	...	...	...	5.08
March	...	...	...	...	...	4.27
April	...	...	...	...	...	0.08
May	...	...	...	...	...	5.09
June	...	...	...	...	...	1.58
Total	...	...	...	...	...	104.82

VIII.—COMMUNICATIONS

The acquisition of H.M.C.S. "Ranadi" from the Fiji Government in October, 1922, greatly improved communication between Ocean Island and the Gilbert and the Ellice Islands. Her services were lost to the Colony from the end of November, 1922, to the beginning of June, 1923, when she went to Auckland for repairs. Thenceforth she was employed on inter-insular duty until her departure for Suva at the end of September, 1923, for service with the Fiji Government.

It was subsequently arranged that H.M.C.S. "Pioneer," should be chartered for semi-annual visits to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, and in accordance with this arrangement the "Pioneer" was on duty in Colony waters from March to April, 1924.

Fifty-nine vessels called at Ocean Island in the year. Of these, 32 were from Australia, either direct or via Nauru; eleven from Japan; nine from Tarawa; two from Suva; one each from Dunedin, Hobart, Apia, Honolulu and Shanghai.

The centre for mails to the group is Tarawa, whence they are distributed to the post offices at Tabiteuea, Beru, and Funafuti.

European officials stationed on the islands which are the headquarters of the separate districts act as postmasters, whilst at the remaining islands postal duties are performed, with one exception, by the native government island scribes.

The Imperial Postal Order Service has been extended to this Colony, in addition to the existing Money Order Service with the Commonwealth of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world.

The wireless station at Ocean Island was opened for traffic on 14th March, 1916. A public service via Suvaradio to all parts of the world was inaugurated on 16th August, 1922. As a direct result of this a new and cheaper rate to Ocean Island from Australia via Rabaul came into operation on 1st January, 1923.

Successful demonstration of Wireless Telephony by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited between Ocean Island and Nauru has resulted in the purchase of two sets. Communication with Nauru and the British Phosphate Commission steamer "Nauru Chief" is expected to open up during the early part of 1925.

Wireless Telegraphy apparatus has been installed at Tarawa by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company and communication was established on April 1st, 1924. Tarawa is now connected with the International Telegraph System through Ocean Island, and the station is available for communication with ships in the Group.

H. R. McCLURE,

Resident Commissioner.

1st January, 1925.

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1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
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1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1247.

BERMUDA.

REPORT FOR 1923

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1167.)



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ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923.

Note on History and Constitution.

According to the Spanish navigator and historian, Ferdinand d'Oveido, who visited these islands in 1515, they were discovered at an earlier date by Juan de Bermudez, after whom they were called the Bermudas. The exact date of the discovery is not known, but a map contained in the first edition of the "Legatio Babylonica" of Peter Martyr, published in 1511, shows the Island "La Barmuda" in approximately correct position.

No aborigines were found on the islands by the early voyagers, and the Spaniards took no steps to found a settlement.

The islands were still entirely uninhabited when, in 1609, Admiral Sir George Somers' ship "The Sea Venture," while on a voyage with a fleet of eight other vessels conveying a party of colonists to the new plantations then being formed in Virginia, was wrecked upon one of the numerous sunken reefs which surround the islands on every side. The reef is still called after the name of the Admiral's ship, the Sea Venture Flat.

Sir George Somers died in Bermuda the following year, and his companions, ignorant possibly of the prior claims of Juan de Bermudez, called the group after him, "The Somers' Islands." The reports of the beauty and fertility of the land, taken home by Somers' nephew, Captain Mathew Somers, induced the Virginia Company to seek an extension of their Charter, so as to include the islands within their dominion, and this extension was readily granted by King James I, but shortly afterwards the Virginia Company sold the islands for the sum of £2,000 to a new body of adventurers, called "The Governor and Company of the City of London for the Plantation of the Somers Islands."

During the first twenty-five years of its existence the settlement prospered exceedingly under the government of the Company, but as the original shareholders, who included many of the most distinguished men of the time, died or disposed of their holdings, the administration was neglected, and the settlers became subject to many grievances and abuses. Finally, in 1679, they appealed to the Crown for redress, and in 1684, a verdict having been given under a writ of Quo Warranto against the Charter of the Bermuda Company, the government of the Colony passed to the Crown, and the Company, the members of which then held only twenty-five shares of land in the island, was dissolved.

GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION.

The Orders and Constitution of the Colony under the Bermuda Company made provision for a reasonable amount of self-government by the settlers, including the right to elect representatives to make laws within certain restrictions. The first General Assembly for Bermuda was held at St. George's on the 1st August, 1620.

When the government passed to the Crown in 1684, the Commission to the first Royal Governor confirmed the grant of representative institutions, which have been continued without interruption until the present day.

The laws of the Colony are enacted by a Legislature, consisting of the Governor, the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly.

The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council, consisting at present of four official and three unofficial members. The Legislative Council consists of nine members, three of whom are official and six unofficial. The House of Assembly consists of thirty-six members, four of whom are elected by each of the nine parishes. The members of the Executive Council and of the Legislature are paid 8s. a day for each day's attendance. There are about 1,350 electors, the electoral qualifications being the possession of freehold property of not less than £60 value. The qualification for a member of the House of Assembly is the possession of freehold property rated at £240.

I.—General Review.

1. His Excellency the Governor, Lieut.-General Sir J. J. Asser, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., left the Colony on the 28th July on vacation leave of absence, returning to the Colony and resuming duty on the 7th September. During that period the administration of government devolved on Brevet Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Badcock, C.B.E., D.S.O., commanding Royal Army Service Corps.

On the 19th July the Honourable H. M-M. Moore, Colonial Secretary, and Chairman of the Board of Public Works, proceeded to England on three months' vacation leave. During his absence from the Colony Mr. Moore was transferred to the Government Secretariat at Lagos, Northern Nigeria. Mr. John Trimmingham, Assistant Colonial Secretary, was appointed to act as Colonial Secretary on the 19th July, and continued in that office through the remainder of the year.

2. The prosperity of the Colony, to which allusion was made in the Report for 1922, continued throughout the year under review. The revenue showed a large increase of £95,834 over the revenue for 1922, and the number of tourists who visited the islands exceeded by 2,200 the number recorded for 1922. The expenditure on Public Works showed an increase over that for 1922, and dredging operations were steadily maintained. Works

of private enterprise continued to increase. There was a slight increase in the number of both births and marriages over the number recorded for 1922, while the number of recorded deaths was fewer.

The volume of legislation for the year under review was about the same as that for the previous year.

- 3. High prices and shortage of labour continued to be important features of the economic situation during 1923, and the progress of constructional work continued no doubt to be handicapped. A number of Portuguese immigrants, including farmers, general labourers, etc., were imported from the Azores.

4. The main feature of the year's work was a preliminary survey of the marshes throughout the Colony and the preparation of preliminary estimates with a view to their reclamation, primarily with a view to the extermination of mosquitoes, and conversion into sports grounds, etc.

Towards the end of the year, Dr. Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., etc., arrived in the Colony at the invitation of Government for the purpose of investigating matters connected with Public Health and Sanitation in the Colony. Dr. Balfour presented an Interim Report on these matters before leaving the Colony, containing many important recommendations regarding the administration of Public Health matters, some of which have since been submitted for the consideration of the Legislature. Amongst these recommendations may be mentioned the provision for the appointment of a Director of Medical and Health Department, at a substantially increased salary compared with that now drawn by the Medical Officer of Health. While this subject should perhaps more properly come within the scope of the Report for 1924, it may here be mentioned that the Legislature has since made provision for the appointment in question.

5. During the year under review the tourist trade continued to flourish. Particulars are given in paragraph 32 below.

II.—Financial.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

6. The total revenue for the year 1923 was £309,916, and the expenditure £277,925; the corresponding figures for 1922 being: For revenue £214,082, and for expenditure £220,476.

7. The chief revenue of the Colony was derived as usual from Customs duties. The principal items being as follows:—

	£
<i>Ad valorem</i> 10 per cent.	109,538
Surtax on 10 per cent.	17,489
Cigars and Cigarettes	9,134
Malt Liquors	7,784
Rum	11,896
Spirits	18,215
Export Duty on Spirits.	60,613

Amongst other receipts the following may be noted :—

Postal Revenue	£ 32,836
Reimbursements to Government (hospital fees, etc.)	12,990

8. The following is a comparative table of revenue and expenditure from 1915 to 1923 inclusive :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1915	106,467	97,643
1916	107,055	109,652
1917	100,447	105,867
1918	91,645	90,684
1919	119,091	107,240
1920	219,753	186,470
1921	201,382	237,492
1922	214,082	220,476
1923	309,916	277,925

REVENUE.

9. The revenue for 1923 amounted, as shown above, to £309,916, showing an increase of £95,834 compared with the revenue for 1922. The largest increase was under goods paying Customs duties at 10 per cent *ad valorem* and amounted to £24,272. The total receipts from Customs duties during 1923 were £254,420, as compared with £162,751 for 1922. The increase in postal revenue represents the increased sale of both postage and revenue stamps.

EXPENDITURE.

10. The total expenditure for the year under review was £277,925, compared with £220,476 for 1922. Of that total, £59,440 came under the head of Personal Emoluments (salaries and fees).

11. The principal items of expenditure were as follows :—

Public Debt	£ 44,236
Education	14,321
Hospital	10,147
Police	16,368
Post Office	12,253
Trade Development Board	42,628
Works Department	62,349

With reference to the foregoing table, the amount of £44,236 under Public Debt is shown as an item of expenditure for the reason that the West End Channels Loan of £40,000, raised in 1893, was paid off entirely out of current revenue available at the time, and the Sinking Fund, to which contributions had been made each year for the purpose of paying off the loan, remains invested and intact.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

12. The liabilities of the Colony, apart from funded debt, totalled at the end of 1923, £28,000, on account of inconvertible £1 notes issued during the war. The assets totalled £186,058 8s. 5d., made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Cash in the Treasury on 31st December, 1923 ..	38,852	9	5
In hands of Crown Agents :—	£	s.	d.
Act No. 49, 1921	829	2	0
Lent at interest	10,500	0	0
On deposit	6,000	0	0
	<hr/>	17,329	2 0
Investments made under the authority of The Government Notes Redemption Act, 1915, nominal value of Stock	41,076	17	3
*Balance of advances made to Savings Bank on account of interest, management, etc. ..	5,921	2	3
Reserve Fund created under authority of The Bermuda Investment Act, 1921, No. 58, nominal value of Stock.. ..	11,451	7	5
Superannuation Fund, nominal value of Stock ..	20,941	2	0
Sinking Fund of Channel Loan transferable to Reserve Fund under The Bermuda Investment Act, 1921	50,486	8	1
	<hr/>	£186,058	8 5

PUBLIC DEBT.

13. The Public Debt is £45,000, being an amount raised in 1920 for the liquidation of certain liabilities incurred during the war, redeemable in 1950. The nominal value of the stock representing investments in the Sinking Fund at the end of the year was £17,710 9s. 11d. The stock in this loan is for the most part held in the Colony.

III.—Commercial.

14. The total value of the trade of the Colony for the year 1923 was £2,376,201, as compared with £1,499,992 in 1922 and £1,564,866 in 1921. Imports show an increase of £615,705 and exports an increase of £260,504, compared with the corresponding

* The repayment of this amount is contingent on the existence of an excess of Savings Bank assets over liabilities.

figures for 1922. The total imports and exports since 1914 are shown below :—

					<i>Imports..</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
					£	£
1914	..	..	..	..	565,611	106,661
1915	..	..	..	..	579,828	101,663
1916	..	..	..	..	734,799	139,825
1917	..	..	..	..	674,493	207,724
1918	..	..	..	..	692,742	139,825
1919	..	..	..	..	792,683	208,708
1920	..	..	..	..	1,414,250	265,868*
1921	..	..	..	..	1,340,240	224,626*
1922	..	..	..	..	1,266,696	233,296
1923	..	..	..	..	1,882,401	493,800

IMPORTS.

15. The total value of imports was £1,882,401, as follows :—

					£
From the United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	708,413
„ the Dominion of Canada	..	..	..	..	239,048
„ the British West Indies	..	..	..	..	20,718
„ India	..	..	..	..	406
„ the United States of America	..	..	..	..	913,576
„ Cuba	..	..	..	..	240

16. The following are the largest items forming the imports :—

						£
Butter	..	..	..	..	..	37,009
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	59,485
Bran	..	..	..	..	..	23,828
Building Material	..	..	..	..	..	37,131
Canned Goods	..	..	..	..	..	25,343
Clothing	..	..	..	..	..	34,647
Cotton Goods	..	..	..	..	..	72,525
Electrical Goods	..	..	..	..	..	36,081
Fancy Goods	..	..	..	..	..	93,227
Flour	..	..	..	..	..	26,146
Furniture	..	..	..	..	..	49,261
Groceries	..	..	..	..	..	40,501
Hardware	..	..	..	..	..	73,894
Lumber	..	..	..	..	..	36,616
Machinery	..	..	..	..	..	49,764
Oats	..	..	..	..	..	31,287
Smoked Meats	..	..	..	..	..	113,939
Potatoes	..	..	..	..	..	17,516
Sugar	..	..	..	..	..	31,401
Woollen Goods	..	..	..	..	..	26,487
Cigarettes	..	..	..	..	..	22,219
Eggs	..	..	..	..	..	17,847
Fresh Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	20,028
Malt Liquor	..	..	..	..	..	26,384
Fuel Oil	..	..	..	..	..	17,002
Whiskey	..	..	..	..	..	353,082
Wine	..	..	..	..	..	17,353

* Includes £20,000 in specie.

EXPORTS.

17. The total value of exports was £493,800, as follows:—

	£
To the United Kingdom	450
„ the Dominion of Canada	40,160
„ the British West Indies	7,751
„ the United States of America	125,035
„ St. Pierre, Miquelon	320,404

The chief articles of export with their declared value were as follows:—

	£
Empty Oil Barrels	9,365
Lily Bulbs	8,321
Empty Casks	6,998
Onions	8,871
Potatoes.. .. .	59,858
Spirits	13,141
Vegetables	42,147
Wine	6,802
Whiskey.. .. .	335,712

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

18. The sources of imports as compared with 1922 are shown in the following statement:—

	1922.	1923.
	£	£
From United Kingdom ..	366,072	708,413
„ Canada	200,850	239,048
„ Other British Possessions	20,093	21,124
„ Foreign Countries ..	679,681	913,816
	<hr/> £1,266,696	<hr/> £1,882,401

19. The largest items of imports from the United Kingdom were:—

Clothing (£23,912).	Cotton Goods (£29,506).
Fancy Goods (£47,429).	Machinery (£17,987).
Woollen Goods (£19,867).	Cigarettes (£19,680).
Malt Liquor (£23,796).	Whiskey (£331,441).
Wine (£16,681).	

20. The principal imports from Canada were, as in the past few years:—

Butter (£24,671).	Bran (£16,071).
Preserved Fish (£7,965).	Flour (£22,845).
Hay (£10,750).	Oats (£28,846).
Potatoes (£10,963).	Whiskey (£21,342).

21. Imports from other British Possessions were practically entirely from the British West Indies, and consist of sugar, rum, cigars, and fuel oil.

22. Imports from foreign countries were chiefly from the United States of America, principal items being :—

Butter (£10,262).	Beef (£55,870).
Building Material (£32,063).	Boots and Shoes (£21,279).
Canned Goods (£15,568).	Clothing (£10,467).
Cotton Goods (£42,389).	Electrical Goods (£32,928).
Fancy Goods (£41,489).	Furniture (£42,737).
Glassware (£10,358).	Groceries (£31,966).
Hardware (£65,074).	Lumber (£31,599).
Machinery (£25,463).	Kerosene Oil (£12,588).
Preserved Meats (£110,692).	Poultry and Meats (£12,815).
Sugar (£25,431).	Coal (£12,545).
Eggs (£17,391).	Fuel Oil (£15,963).

AGRICULTURE.

23. The year 1923 was not a prosperous one for Bermuda agriculture. Exports of agricultural products were below the annual averages of the previous ten years. High cost of production, labour shortage, and the attraction of other forms of employment more closely associated with the tourist trade combined to reduce production. Potato exports were further reduced by unfavourable weather conditions, infestation of leaf-roll, and an increase in the quantity consumed locally. The very small quantity of onions exported was due largely to a very severe outbreak of blight (*Peronospora Schleideni*).

24. The quantities of vegetables shipped were as follows :—

	Bushels.
Potatoes.. .. .	89,611
Onions	35,176
Beets	28,007
Carrots	60,894
Celery	40,302
Parsley	40,688
Other Vegetables	24,083

25. The growing of Bermuda Easter lily bulbs (*L. longiflorum Harrisii*) is increasing, but the conditions governing sale and export are not altogether satisfactory.

26. New York is the principal market, and to it is shipped over 90 per cent. of all agricultural exports.

27. The home market continues to absorb increasing quantities of locally produced vegetables, dairy products and eggs. On 3rd January, 1923, a Farmers' Market was opened in Hamilton, and, though not patronised to the extent anticipated, it is serving a useful purpose. Dairy cattle and poultry are improving in both quality and numbers.

28. The activities of the Department of Agriculture are varied, and during the year under report have included, *inter alia*, experiments with crops and the growing of plants for distribution ; inspection services in relation to agricultural and horticultural exports, and live stock, local infectious animal diseases, and local plant diseases and pests ; investigation of local plant diseases and pests and methods of control ; representation in the New York market, the publication of market information, and the establishment and supervision of a local Farmers' Market ; the organisation and direction of the Annual Agricultural Exhibition, and assistance to the Trade Development Board in connection with the Canadian National Exhibition ; the supervision of boys' and girls' agricultural clubs ; and other matters pertaining to " the practice and study of agriculture." The inclusion of a trained mycologist on the permanent staff makes it possible to give greater attention to the control of plant diseases and pests.

29. The long-established practice of seasonal credits extended to farmers by merchants, and the system of short leases to tenant farmers, who are in the majority, should give place to a more independent system of co-operation and farmer-landowners.

SHIPPING.

30. The following table shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the year under review, distinguishing British and foreign ships and steamships from sailing vessels :—

<i>Entered.</i>					
			<i>Steam.</i>	<i>Sailing.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
British	..	..	1,202,657	7,244	1,209,901
Foreign	..	..	200,721	14,414	215,135
<i>Cleared.</i>					
British	..	..	1,202,108	6,697	1,208,805
Foreign	..	..	201,531	14,107	215,638
					<hr/> 2,849,479 <hr/>

31. The total tonnage entering and clearing for the last five years is shown in the following table :—

				<i>British.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1919	..	..	..	632,212	1,258,188
1920	..	..	..	1,019,373	2,371,064
1921	..	..	..	1,210,649	2,387,797
1922	..	..	..	1,737,141	2,178,562
1923	..	..	..	2,418,706	2,849,479

TOURIST TRADE.

32. About 26,700 " tourists " are estimated to have visited the Colony during 1923, an increase of about 2,200 over the figures for 1922.

It is estimated that at least 10,500 tourists visited Bermuda during the summer months, the travel during these months also showing an increase, although not as large as that during "the season" or winter months.

The importance of the tourist traffic is being increasingly recognised, and during the year the Colony voted a sum of £42,000 to assist the Trade Development Board in encouraging and developing it. Of this sum £27,500 was expended on steamship subsidies, the balance being almost exclusively spent on advertising and the entertainment of visitors. The continued publicity efforts made by the Trade Development Board are largely responsible for the healthy increase in this trade.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

33. The rate for sterling exchange has continued high, the exchange on New York averaging 6 per cent. for the year.

34. For Customs purposes the dollar was accepted at \$4.80 to the pound, regardless of the actual market value, and similarly the normal par rate in the case of all other foreign countries was accepted.

IV.—Communications.

STEAMSHIP.

35. The contract entered into with the Furness-Bermuda Line in September, 1922, required that Company to maintain the "Fort Victoria" and the "Fort St. George" on the New York-Bermuda route on a schedule providing for bi-weekly sailings by the "Fort Victoria" and the "Fort St. George" during the months of January to April inclusive, and weekly sailings during the summer months. The benefit of this contract to the Colony has continued to make itself felt by the increased number of tourists who have visited the islands during the year.

36. The steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line continued to give a regular fortnightly service with Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the West Indies, while the R.M.S.P. "Araguaya" maintained a weekly service with New York during January-April, and the R.M.S.P. "Arcadian" maintained a similar service during December.

37. The interest of Canada in establishing stronger trade relations with Bermuda and the West Indies has steadily increased, a tri-weekly passenger and freight service between Montreal, Bermuda, Nassau, Kingston, Belize, and British Honduras being maintained, as well as a fortnightly service by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

38. The number of excursion steamers including a stop at Bermuda in their itineraries showed an increase during the year.

POST OFFICE.

39. There are nineteen post offices and sub-post offices throughout the islands, with two deliveries a day of local mails. Mails to and from Hamilton and Ireland Island are now provided for by contract made by the Board of Trade and not by the Postal Department as formerly. The report shows a general development and increase in every branch of the Department.

	£	s.	d.
Total Revenue	33,376	2	8
Total Expenditure	13,467	18	3
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	£19,908	4	5

40. The chief item of revenue is derived from the sale of postage stamps (£31,101), which exceeds the sales in 1922 by £4,000. About half of this sum is realised from the sale of high-value stamps, of which over £13,000 was accounted for by 10s. stamps for passenger tickets. The expenditure for the year under review is only £498 in excess of that of the previous year.

41. The work in the parcel-post branch continued to increase :—

	<i>Parcels Received.</i>	<i>Parcels Sent.</i>
Number	56,123	10,108
Value	£109,736 13s. 7d.	£8,923 2s. 4d.
Duty paid to Treasury ..	£11,896 10s. 10d.	

42. The following table shows the amount of money orders issued for 1923 as compared with 1922 (through orders are included under United Kingdom) :—

	<i>Amount.</i>					
	1922.			1923.		
<i>Orders Issued.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom ..	14,324	2	7	17,036	5	10
Canada	2,023	0	11	3,281	5	8
United States of America	6,458	5	9	12,378	14	4
West Indies and British Guiana	4,803	2	2	5,212	1	9
	£27,608	11	5	£37,912	7	7

V.—Vital Statistics.

43. The civil population at the end of 1923 was estimated at 20,846, an increase of 520 over that of 1922. The population of white to coloured persons is 7,183 to 13,663 coloured persons. The living birth-rate amongst the civilian population was 31·3 per thousand (27·8 white ; 33·9 coloured). Total birth-rate, including still-births, was 33·2 per thousand.

44. Illegitimate births, including still-births, numbered 98 out of 693, equivalent to a rate of 14.1 per cent. (1.4 white, 19.5 coloured).

			1922.		1923.	
			White.	Coloured.	White.	Coloured.
Births	..	..	194	452	206	487
Deaths	..	..	106	231	103	209
Marriages	..	..	62	107	82	91

VI.—Public Health.

45. The general health of the community was good. The following diseases were reported during the year: Chicken-pox, 8 cases; diphtheria, 1 case; leprosy, 1 case; measles, 7 cases; scarlet fever, 52 cases; typhoid fever, 44 cases; whooping-cough, 13 cases.

Vaccination has been compulsory in the Colony for the past forty years, but during the year under review a new Act was passed, vesting the administration of the law on the subject in the Public Health Department.

The following figures relate to the defects found on inspection of premises:—

Year.					Inspections.	Defects.
1921	..	..	..	..	2,284	1,268
1922	..	..	..	..	4,634	2,134
1923	..	..	..	..	4,473	1,078

Out of the 1,078 defects found in 1923, 711 were later on remedied.

There were 53 homes reported to be without tanks in 1923, compared with 177 in 1922.

There was a drought during the months of June and July, when about 50 per cent. of the tanks in the Colony were nearly dry.

VII.—Public Works.

46. Labour conditions showed no marked improvement over those prevailing in 1922, in spite of the importation of a number of immigrants, mostly labourers imported during the year, and were due to a large extent to the high rate of wages paid, especially to skilled labour. Much assistance to Public Works, however, was afforded by prison labour.

47. Of the 49 works or services for which provision was made during the year, 42 were actually dealt with. Of the 33 items under Public Works Estimates, 21 were completed and 4 were undertaken and in hand at the end of the year.

Expenditure.

Total Votes for Public Works Department ..	£ 57,865
Supplementary Votes	14,100
	<hr/>
	£71,965
	<hr/>
Total amount expended	£ 58,806
Unexpended balance	13,159
	<hr/>
	£71,965
	<hr/>

48. The expenditure therefore represents 81·71 per cent. of the total appropriations compared with 81·69 per cent. in 1922.

49. The Colonial dredger was employed from May until December, mainly on work at Dundonald Channel in the Great Sound, when that channel was enlarged to a width of 250 ft. and a depth of not less than 26 ft. (actual) at M.L.W. In addition, the dredger was employed for short intervals in other minor dredger works, including those at Corporation Wharves, Paynter's Channel, shoal at No. 6 Black Buoy in Narrows Channel, Darrell's Wharf and Somerset Bridge Wharf, and shoal at White's Island. The amount of material dredged during the year was 207,910 tons (rock 107,310 tons and sand 100,600 tons).

VIII.—Legislative.

50. There were forty-five Acts passed during the year under review, amongst the more important of which were the following :—

The Plant Pathologist Act, which provided for an addition to the staff of the Agricultural Department by the appointment of a qualified plant pathologist.

The Companies Act, which contains certain general provisions relating to the incorporation of Joint Stock Companies, which had hitherto been embodied in each Act by which a company was incorporated.

The Statute Law (Compilation and Revision) Act, which provides for a new Compilation of Bermuda Laws up to the year under review.

The Municipalities Act, which consolidates and amends the Acts relating to the City of Hamilton and Town of St. George.

The Quarantine Act, which consolidates and amends the various Acts relating to quarantine. Under this Act all ships arriving in the Colony are required to be visited, with certain exceptions, by the Health Officer at the Port of St. George.

Another important change effected by this measure is that the Medical Officer of Health is made responsible for the administration of all quarantine services.

The Bermuda Local Loan Redemption Act, which authorised the redemption out of the Public Treasury of a loan of £40,000, raised under an Act of 1892, to defray the expenses of the improvement of the West End Channels, instead of by realising invested funds for which a Sinking Fund was created when the loan was raised.

IX.—Immigration and Emigration Statistics.

51. Immigrants subject to Immigration Law ..	97		
Immigrants and others not subject to Immigration Law	579		
The number of emigrants was	507		
		<i>Arrivals.</i>	<i>Departures.</i>
First class passengers	27,954	26,859	
Second and third class passengers	1,074	1,147	

The following figures relate to immigrants imported through the agency of the Immigrant Labour Board during the year :—

A total of 369 immigrants were imported (men 323, women 15, and children 31). Since the formation of the Immigrant Labour Board at the beginning of 1922 the total of 678 immigrants were imported through the Board up to the end of 1923. Of the 369 immigrants imported during the year :—

48	came from England.
202	„ „ Newfoundland.
2	„ „ Canada.
21	„ „ the West Indies.
96	„ „ the Azores.

They consisted for the most part of carpenters, labourers, engineers, clerks, and masons. These figures are included in the tables given above relating to immigrants.

X.—Meteorological.

52. The following are the chief figures :—

Mean atmospheric pressure	29·966
Mean temperature	69·7
Highest temperature	90° (26th Aug.)
Lowest temperature	43° (18th Jan.)
Mean relative humidity	77 per cent.
Number of days' rain	176
Wettest month	November
Driest month	June
Average rainfall last 10 years	50·06 in.
Total rainfall for 1923	45·23 in.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1220	Uganda	1923
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
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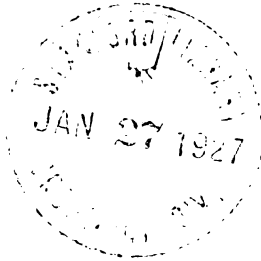
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No. 1248.

WEIHAIWEI.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For report for 1923 see No. 1198.)



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No. 1248.

WEIHAIWEI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

I. FINANCE.

The financial year in this Territory ends on 31st March, 1925, and it is therefore only possible to give figures of the year 1924-25 for the period 1st April to 31st December, 1924.

The following table shows the financial position during the past four years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue. Expenditure.</i>		<i>Grant-in-Aid</i> (showing dollars and sterling.)	
	\$	\$	\$	£
1920-21	164,973	235,445	129,596	20,000
1921-22	212,464	270,306	61,311	8,000
1922-23	195,946	203,741	nil	nil
1923-24	213,956	205,411	nil	nil
1923 (1st April to 31st December)	171,915	156,383	nil	nil
1924 (1st April to 31st December)	166,383	141,022	nil	nil

The Revenue includes the sums of \$12,010 and \$11,310 for 1st April to 31st December, 1923 and 1924 respectively, on account of the Wuk'ou Improvement Scheme, and Expenditure those of \$4,429 and \$1,653 respectively, on account of the same Scheme.

It will be seen that the Revenue for the nine months of the year 1924 is slightly less than that for the same period of the year 1923. This decrease is mainly attributable to a fall in the exportation of salt ; in spite of this, however, the surplus of revenue over expenditure during the period in question shows no appreciable decline as compared with the same period of 1923.

The revenue collected during the calendar year 1924 amounted to \$194,097, as compared with \$198,468 in the year 1923. A further sum of \$14,391 was collected during 1924 in connection with the Wuk'ou Scheme.

The estimated revenue for the financial year 1924-25 was \$176,360, excluding the Wuk'ou Improvement Scheme.

The estimated expenditure for the year 1924-25 was \$224,224, a figure which will be reduced by about \$35,000 owing to the rigid economy exercised during the year.

When regard is had to the present uncertain conditions the financial position of the Territory may be regarded as satisfactory, but the figures given cannot, as has been pointed out in previous reports, be accepted as indicative of the normal finances of Weihaiwei for expenditure on a much enhanced scale must be incurred if the Territory remains under British Administration.

No Grants-in-Aid from Imperial funds has been necessary since 1921-22 and none will be required to carry on through the present financial year.

Currency.

During the year there has been a considerable shortage of money among the native population of the Territory, which has produced an adverse effect on the revenue. The local shop notes have continued to depreciate and the copper subsidiary coinage has risen from 200 to 250 for the dollar.

II. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Conditions in the Territory.

Unrest prevailed throughout the Province of Shantung and highway robbers and brigand bands have, as usual, terrorised villages over the border but no attempt was made to raid or create trouble on the British side of the border.

III. CHANGES OF STAFF.

The following changes in the Government staff have occurred during the past year :—

Appointments.

(1) Mr. W. R. Haller was appointed Financial Secretary on 21st June, 1924.

(2) Surgeon-Lieutenant L. McGolrick, Royal Navy, was appointed Junior Medical Officer for the periods from 8th to 12th, and 19th to 29th December, 1924, and from 6th January, 1925.

(3) Surgeon-Lieutenant L. McGolrick, Royal Navy, was appointed Acting Senior Medical Officer from 13th to 18th December.

(4) Dr. Francis Clark, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., was appointed Senior Medical Officer on 19th December.

Retirements.

Dr. M. C. Cooper, M.C., M.R.C.S. (England), L.R.C.P. (London), Senior Medical Officer, retired on 12th December, 1924.

IV. NAVAL.

(a) Admiral Sir Arthur Leveson, K.C.B., Naval Commander-in-Chief, China Station, flew his flag on shore on the Island of Liu Kung during part of last year, towards the end of which

he was relieved by his successor, Vice-Admiral Sir Allen Frederic Everett, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., who visited Weihaiwei in December on his Flagship H.M.S. "Hawkins." Owing to the unsettled political conditions in North China one or more of the ships of the China Fleet were retained on duty at Weihaiwei until the end of the year.

The behaviour of the men of the Fleet was, as usual, exemplary.

(b) The Commander-in-Chief of the American Fleet in the Far East, Admiral Washington, visited Weihaiwei in July on board the U.S.S. "General Alava," escorted by the U.S.S. "Huron." The Admiral was accompanied by Mr. Jacob Gould Shurman, the American Minister to China, who remained for a visit of a few days.

(c) In August, Rear-Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura arrived on board the Japanese Cruiser "Tone" for a brief visit to Weihaiwei.

(d) The French Admiral Frochet paid a visit of a week's duration to Weihaiwei on board the Cruiser "Jules Ferry."

V. MILITARY.

The platoon of the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) under the command of Lieutenant Elrington, M.C., was relieved in September by a further platoon of the same regiment under the command of Lieutenant G. W. Gibson. Both platoons have fully maintained the high standard of discipline shown by their predecessors and no complaint of any serious nature has been made by the inhabitants in respect of the behaviour of the men. In order to discourage the ingress from Chinese soil of robber bands and armed deserters, the troops have, at my request, made frequent tours throughout the length and breadth of the Territory, and I am glad to record that no untoward incident occurred during the year.

VI. POLICE.

Establishment of Additional Police Posts.

Alarmed by the serious increase of lawlessness and brigandage throughout every part of the Province of Shantung other than the Territory of Weihaiwei, the Chinese Civil Governor last year issued instructions to each district magistrate directing him to take a census of the inhabitants within his jurisdiction in order that the authorities might obtain fuller information of, and so place restrictive measures on, the movements and activity of bad and suspicious characters. As an outcome of his investigations the Magistrate of the Jung Ch'eng district, which adjoins the eastern border of this Territory, informed this Government that he proposed to establish a police post on the Chinese side of the

village of Tu Chia, through which the Weihaiwei border line runs, and invited the Government to take similar action on the British side. The village in question being a well-known sanctuary of fugitives from Chinese justice, a British police post was in June last placed there in accordance with the Magistrate's request. At the same time, as a further precaution against the ingress of robber bands into the Territory, an additional police post was established at the border villages of Pao Hsin and Hsiao Yen Tan. To obtain men for the service of the three new posts it was necessary to reduce the number of police on duty at the headquarters in Port Edward and at the larger stations along the border, with the result that the force is at present insufficient in strength to cope successfully with the work. No spare men are available to fill vacancies caused by sickness, resignations, etc., and the weakness of the cordon along the frontier is a cause of grave anxiety to the Government. To meet the situation an increase in the number of the police has been inserted in the Estimates of the coming year.

Conduct of Police.

The conduct of the police during the past year has been somewhat unsatisfactory. Out of a total strength of 124, six constables and one non-commissioned officer were dismissed on conviction of serious offences; eleven constables were in addition fined for minor offences, such as gambling in police quarters; one constable deserted, and seven declined to renew their agreements. This undesirable state of affairs is in part attributable to unrest occasioned by the approach of rendition, as the fear that the present force may after rendition be disbanded by the incoming Chinese Administration has tempted some members of the force to endeavour to exploit the public while they are yet dressed in little brief authority. But the main reason for the deterioration in the morale of the police is beyond all question the lack of adequate foreign supervision. It will be remembered that the Government staff was in 1923 drastically reduced as a preliminary to the return of the Territory to China. The British police inspectors are consequently at present under strength; those inspectors who yet remain in the service of the Government are, moreover, seriously hampered in the execution of their duties by the necessity of carrying on the work of Government posts left vacant on grounds of economy. During the past eighteen months it has at no time been possible for the administration to recommend the engagement of the inspectors required to bring the staff to normal strength, and despite every effort made by the Territorial Police Inspector and other officers to visit outlying posts as frequently as possible, it follows that the men in these posts do, of necessity, possess more freedom and are thereby more exposed to temptation than was ever the case in the past history of the administration.

Strength of Force.

The strength of the police force was 124 of all ranks distributed over the following stations :—

	<i>N.C.O's.</i>	<i>Warders.</i>	<i>Constables.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Port Edward ...	4	2	40	46
Territory ...	13	—	50	63
Island ...	1	6	8	15
	—	—	—	—
	18	8	98	124
	—	—	—	—

Police Work.

Despite the unrest and brigandage prevailing on the Chinese side of the border there has been a marked absence of serious crime in the Territory during the past year. Two serious cases were reported, one of torture and one of murder. In the latter case a Russian woman living in an obscure village in the heart of the Territory was accused of the murder of her paramour but was acquitted after a trial by jury presided over by Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Judge of the Weihaiwei High Court.

VII. JUDICIAL.

Civil Cases.

The civil cases heard in the Senior District Officer's Court during the past year show a very marked increase over the preceding year, the total number being 193 in 1924, as compared with 121 in the year 1923. The greatest increase is shown in debt cases, which have increased from 37 in 1923 to 87 in the past year. In 1924 the inheritance of property accounted for 27 cases and marriage disputes for 17, as compared with 15 and 9 respectively in the preceding year. Property cases which comprise, among others, disputes regarding the ownership of land, houses, graveyards, etc., were approximately the same as in 1923, totalling 53 as against 49. The remaining 9 cases were varied and concerned breaches of village regulations, and of agreements, management of temples, maintenance of parents, responsibility for son's debts, and assault.

This large increase of civil cases is due solely to the tightness of money, a condition of national and not solely local origin. Chinese businesses are all founded on credit, and combine with ordinary buying and selling money-lending to approved customers. Accounts, too, for food, clothing, etc., are but rarely paid in cash, but are settled at quarter day. Owing to bad trade, each settlement during the past year has become more difficult than the preceding one, and has only been possible by an extension of credit, the creditor in his turn obtaining an extension of the period of his loan to the next settling day.

The vicious circle has hence become enlarged. China New Year, which is about a month later than the Western New Year, is the final term of settlement, and extensions of short-term loans over that date are rarely possible.

Owing to slackness of trade, there is no means for the countryman to obtain money to settle his debts except by the sale of land; but owing to the general tightness of money no purchasers are forthcoming even at greatly reduced prices, and a general settlement is therefore impossible. Failure of a number of smaller concerns, with little or no capital, is certain, but the larger firms have all sufficient funds to carry them over the New Year's settlement and no serious bankruptcies are to be expected.

Nine appeals against the decision in the Senior District Officer's Court were heard in the High Court. In 5 the decision of the lower Court was upheld, in 2 it was amended or partially reversed, and in 2 reversed.

Out of the 193 cases commenced in the Court, 40 were later withdrawn, having been settled out of Court

Criminal Cases.

During the year, 567 cases were tried or heard in the first instance in the Junior District Officer's Court, as compared with 452 last year. The total number of persons convicted was 1,207, of whom 104 were sentenced to imprisonment and 1,103 to pay fines. Cases of assault and other offences against the person numbered 56. There were 148 cases of gambling, 26 breaches of the Opium Ordinance, 5 of the Stamp Ordinance, and 78 of Vehicle, Sanitary and other regulations.

Fifty-five cases of more serious crime occurred, namely, 1 of murder, 1 of burglary, 1 of aggravated assault (torture), 1 of forgery, 2 of housebreaking, 48 of larceny, and 2 of obtaining money by false pretences. Of these, the murder case was tried by His Majesty's Judge, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, sitting with a jury, the accused, a Russian woman, being acquitted of the charge of stabbing the Chinese with whom she was living. The burglary, aggravated assault, forgery, and 2 larceny cases were tried by the Officer Administering the Government, sitting as Judge of the High Court.

There were 80 cases of suicide compared with 61 in 1923.

The revenue benefited to the extent of \$2,631.60 from fines, while rewards to the police amounted to \$445.

High Court.

Six criminal cases were tried in the Court, as stated above. In addition, 18 civil cases were heard, seven of which were proceedings in bankruptcy.

Births, Deaths and Marriages.

One death, and one civil and two religious marriages, all among the European community, have been registered during 1924, registration being optional to, and but rarely undertaken by, Chinese.

VIII. EDUCATION.

European. Mr. Beer's School.

As foreshadowed in last year's report, the educational facilities provided by this School were reduced and teaching was confined to a few small boys and girls.

Chinese. Government School (Boys).

Enrolment 153, of whom 16 were non-Territory boys, as compared with 117 in 1923. Of these, 98 paid fees. The School will be filled to its maximum capacity (160) next term and the formation of a new class is under consideration. This will entail the engagement of a new teacher on a temporary basis pending rendition.

Anglican Mission School (Boys).

The average number of scholars per term, viz., 120, has been maintained. The new building mentioned in last year's report has been built and is used for class-rooms. Quarters for boarders are still insufficient. Two new Chinese masters have joined the staff and a higher standard of work has in consequence been attained. In 1925, instead of 3 classes of Higher Primary and 1 of Middle Grade, it is hoped to advance to the second year Middle Grade.

St. Joseph's Catholic Mission School (Boys).

Enrolment 151, compared with 38 in 1923.

Plymouth Brethren Mission Schools.

(a) Boys.—Enrolment 33. No change.

(b) Girls.—Enrolment 56 boarders and 21 day girls; total 77, compared with 53 in 1923.

Hsu Te Girls' School.

Enrolment 38, compared with 43 in 1923.

"Popular" Education. (Night Schools for the Poor.)

Six new classes have been started in the Territory, making a total of 26. In addition, two day classes for girls have been started. The enrolment in the first category is 600 and in the second 50.

IX. LEGISLATION.

No new Ordinances were promulgated. The Dentistry Regulations were amended and the Vehicle Regulations consolidated and extended.

X. AGRICULTURE.

The spring crops were average, but the autumn crops suffered severely from drought as the rainfall in August and September, usually two of the wettest months, was negligible.

XI. SALT PRODUCTION.

The number of salt-pans in the Territory is now 328, covering an area of 5,006,464 mou, being an increase over the preceding year of 18 pans and 411.887 mou.

XII. SHIPPING.

Seven hundred and sixty-two steamers with a total tonnage of 782,414 called, as compared with 783 steamers with a tonnage of 797,396 in 1923. The decrease was therefore 21 steamers and 14,982 tons. British steamers numbered 431, Japanese 174, and Chinese 156. Junks inward numbered 1,533 and outward 452, or a total of 1,985.

XIII. INDUSTRIES.

The making of silk hosiery, embroidery and lace appears to be on the increase. The salting of fish is an industry of considerable size in Port Edward, and uses about half the salt annually produced in the Territory, viz., 30,000 piculs (a picul = 133½ lb.).

XIV. TRADE.

Business was fairly brisk in the spring, but became slack in the autumn owing to the Civil War in China. Money is tight in the Territory, as higher rates of interest are obtainable elsewhere. The marketing of last season's groundnut crop was conducted at a loss on the whole, as owing to the tightness of money dealers could not wait for the higher prices ruling later in the season.

Salt was often sold at a loss in the autumn owing to the low prices prevailing in Hongkong market and the impossibility of holding stocks for an indefinite period on account of the fear of deterioration.

The total volume of trade amounted to 1,668,704, packages, valued at \$13,493,811, as compared with 2,264,688 packages, worth \$12,864,040 in 1923. The increase in value was therefore \$629,771. The excess value of imports over exports was \$2,780,649.

The movement of merchandise is shown in Appendices II and III and is summarised as follows :—

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Net Imports.</i>	<i>Net Exports.</i>	<i>Increase or Decrease on 1923.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Bean Cake	110,073	2,399	107,674	—	— 14,220
Raw Cotton and Yarn	1,319,340	3,360	1,315,980	—	— 3,755
Groundnuts, Shelled ...	427,735	3,033,723	—	2,605,988	+ 357,830
Groundnut Oil	1,531,134	1,323,504	207,630	—	+ 267,890
Flour	269,766	2,988	266,778	—	— 120,004
Salt	4,532	34,328	—	29,796	— 352,302
Provisions	114,670	—	114,670	—	+ 15,630
Maize	163,953	2,607	161,346	—	— 5,681
Millet	24,075	1,480	22,595	—	— 17,606
Sugar and Sugar Candy	331,149	165,272	165,877	—	+ 9,136
Timber	158,044	59,050	98,994	—	— 23,782
Chinese Wine	216,090	—	216,090	—	— 4,548
Fish, Salt and Dried ...	99,035	57,025	42,010	—	— 61,460
Candles	17,816	—	17,816	—	— 6,580
Cigarettes	189,720	—	189,720	—	— 52,560
Kerosene	72,950	14,785	58,165	—	— 88,120
Rice	241,660	4,016	237,644	—	+ 43,569
Leather	23,820	2,910	20,910	—	+ 3,690

XV. MEDICAL AND SANITARY.

The general health of the population, both native and foreign, during the year has been good. During the summer months there was a small epidemic of rubeola and also of whooping cough amongst the visitors, but both diseases were of a mild form and the epidemics quickly subsided.

Two hundred and thirty cases of dysentery or diarrhoea were treated in the Civil Hospital, as compared with 212 the year before last.

No case of cholera, plague or smallpox was notified.

The work of the Port Edward Civil Hospital has shown a steady increase. The number of patients treated in the hospital as in-patients was 313, as compared with 239 in 1923, while a total of 384 operations were performed, as compared with 239 in the previous year. There was a marked increase in the number of major operations performed, while the total number of operations under general anaesthesia was almost double that of the previous year.

The scheme for feeding the in-patients from a hospital kitchen, which was commenced last year, has worked very satisfactorily, and has cost the Government nothing except the initial outlay.

The plan of substituting hospital beds for the kangas at present used has not yet been carried out, but this and similar reforms are urgently needed.

On 29th December the Officer Commanding the detachment of British Troops stationed in Weihaiwei, a British Police Inspector, and Dr. Francis Clark, the newly-appointed Senior Medical Officer to the Government, were infected by saliva from

the mouth of a dog that died suddenly with symptoms strongly resembling those of dumb rabies. All these officers were accordingly instructed to proceed to Tientsin for a course of Pasteur treatment. The bacteriological examination of the head of the dead dog subsequently made at Tientsin disclosed the fact that the dog was in fact mad on the day of death.

During the absence of Dr. Francis Clark at Tientsin the services of Surgeon-Lieutenant L. McGolrick have, by the courtesy of Sir Allen F. Everett, the Commander-in-Chief, China Station, been lent to the Government for duty on the mainland.

Sanitation.

In connection with the sanitation of Port Edward area very little new work has been done. A new latrine has been constructed over the gulley in No. 9 Road to replace the old and very insanitary one lower down the same road. The drains along Market Street have been relaid by prison labour.

XVI. CLIMATE.

The meteorological report of the climate shows that the year 1924 was a very hot and dry one. The highest temperature recorded was 95° F. in August, with a mean for that month of 88·3° F. which is 3·6° higher than last year. The total rainfall for the year was only 16·11 inches, as compared with 25·78 inches in 1923, being only ·58 inches above the total in 1917, the year in which the lowest rainfall is recorded.

W. RUSSELL BROWN,

Officer Administering the Government.

Government House,
Weihaiwei.

10th March, 1925.

APPENDIX I.

TABLE OF TOTAL VOLUME AND VALUE OF TRADE, 1924.

				<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
					\$
Imports by Steamers	...	...	...	407,242	4,891,099
Imports by Junks	...	...	...	588,606	3,246,131
Total Imports	...	...	...	995,848	8,137,230
Exports by Steamers	...	...	...	584,170	4,943,062
Exports by Junks	...	...	...	88,686	413,519
Total Exports	...	...	...	672,856	5,356,581
Total Trade	...	...	...	1,668,704	13,493,811
<i>Note.</i> (1) Total Steamer Trade				991,412	9,834,161
Total Junk Trade				677,292	3,659,650
(2) Excess of Imports over Exports				—	\$2,780,649

APPENDIX II.

TABLE OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS, 1924.

Commodity.	By Steamers.		By Junks.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		\$		\$		\$
Beans, bags ...	1,967	11,802	15,652	62,608	17,619	74,410
Beancake, pieces ...	17,304	31,147	43,848	78,926	61,152	110,073
Bean Oil, tins ...	50	500	2,199	21,990	2,249	22,490
Candles, cases ...	3,945	15,780	509	2,036	4,454	17,816
Cement, casks ...	2,131	12,786	325	1,950	2,456	14,736
Cigarettes, cases ...	1,581	189,720	—	—	1,581	189,720
Coal, tons ...	3,760	56,400	2,604	39,060	6,364	95,460
Cotton, Raw, bales	1,162	52,290	90	4,050	1,252	56,340
Cotton Yarn, bales	6,314	1,262,800	1	200	6,315	1,263,000
Cocoons, bales ...	18	2,700	121	18,150	139	20,850
Dollars, cases ...	48	192,000	—	—	48	192,000
Dyes, casks ...	683	23,905	—	—	683	23,905
Explosives, boxes	69	2,760	—	—	69	2,760
Fish, Salt and Dried, baskets.	787	11,805	8,723	87,230	1,510	99,035
Flour, bags ...	87,371	262,113	2,551	7,653	89,922	269,766
Groundnuts, bags	—	—	4,946	19,784	4,946	19,784
Groundnuts, Shelled, bags.	—	—	38,885	427,735	38,885	427,735
Groundnut Oil, tins	—	—	255,189	1,531,134	255,189	1,531,134
Gunny bags, bales	1,530	91,800	43	2,150	1,573	93,950
Hemp, bales ...	1,310	13,100	467	4,670	5,777	17,770
Iron, sheets, pieces	347	20,820	—	—	347	20,820
Iron, old, pieces ...	8,400	42,000	1,342	6,710	9,742	48,710
Kaoliang, bags ...	—	—	1,561	4,683	1,561	4,683
Kerosene, cases ...	8,854	44,270	5,736	28,680	14,590	72,950
Leather, bales ...	218	19,620	60	4,200	278	23,820
Maize, bags ...	622	3,110	54,281	162,843	54,903	163,953
Matches, cases ...	10	60	2,257	13,542	2,267	13,602
Medicines, cases ...	286	14,300	524	26,200	810	40,500
Millet, bags, ...	—	—	4,815	24,075	4,815	24,075
Paper, cases ...	16,541	82,705	5,563	27,815	22,104	110,520
Provisions, cases ...	2,276	113,800	87	870	3,163	114,670
Piece Goods, pack- ages.	6,147	1,229,400	1	200	6,148	1,229,600
Rice, bags ...	10,175	122,100	14,945	119,560	25,120	241,660
Salt, piculs ...	—	—	9,065	4,532	9,065	4,532
Silk and Satin, cases	53	21,200	—	—	53	21,200
Soap, cases ...	1,478	5,912	156	624	1,634	6,536
Soda Ash, cases ...	1,046	10,460	36	360	1,182	10,820
Sugar, bags ...	25,436	330,668	37	481	25,473	331,149
Timber, cubic feet	172,630	138,104	24,925	19,940	197,555	158,044
Tobacco, cases ...	474	9,480	153	3,060	727	12,540
Tobacco, Dust ...	1,319	6,595	—	—	1,319	6,595
Wine, Chinese, jars	936	1,872	23,802	214,218	24,738	216,090
Wine, Foreign, cases	1,282	25,640	—	—	1,282	25,640
Wood Oil, casks ...	618	12,360	—	—	618	12,360
China and Earthen- ware, packages.	25	125	12,902	58,693	12,927	58,818
Ginseng, cases ...	6	12,000	29	29,000	35	41,000

APPENDIX III.

TABLE OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS, 1924.

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>By Steamers.</i>		<i>By Junks.</i>		<i>Totals.</i>	
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> \$	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> \$	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> \$
Beans, bags ...	740	4,440	1,132	4,528	1,872	8,968
Beancakes, pieces	153	275	1,180	2,124	1,333	2,399
Bean Oil, barrels ...	605	6,050	604	6,040	1,209	12,090
Bean Paste, tins ...	134	670	1,479	7,395	1,613	8,065
Cotton, Raw, bales	—	—	48	2,160	48	2,160
Cotton Yarn, bales	—	—	6	1,200	6	1,200
Cement, casks ...	—	—	322	1,932	322	1,932
Eggs, crates ...	1,113	7,791	20	140	1,133	7,931
Fish, Salt and Dried, baskets.	1,247	18,705	3,832	38,320	5,079	57,025
Flour, bags ...	—	—	996	2,988	996	2,988
Groundnuts, bags	7,694	30,776	—	—	7,694	30,776
Groundnuts, shelled bags.	274,037	3,014,407	1,756	19,316	275,793	3,033,723
Groundnut Oil, tins	220,578	1,323,468	6	36	220,584	1,323,504
Iron, old, piculs ...	—	—	8,395	41,975	8,395	41,975
Kerosene, cases ...	—	—	2,957	14,785	2,957	14,785
Leather, bales ...	2	180	39	2,730	41	2,910
Maize, bags ...	—	—	869	2,607	869	2,607
Millet, bags ...	—	—	296	1,480	296	1,480
Medicines, cases ...	242	12,100	105	5,250	347	17,350
Rice, bags ...	—	—	502	4,016	502	4,016
Salt, piculs ...	68,656	34,328	—	—	68,656	34,328
Sugar, bags ...	—	—	11,129	144,677	11,129	144,677
Sugar Candy, bags	—	—	1,373	20,595	1,373	20,595
Sasson, boxes ...	1,181	59,050	—	—	1,181	59,050
Timber, cubic feet	—	—	38,204	30,563	38,204	30,563
Dollars, cases ...	65	260,000	—	—	65	260,000
Silk Refuse, bales...	200	18,600	—	—	200	18,600
Chinaware, packages	55	5,212	1,464	7,320	1,519	12,532
Wheat, bags ...	—	—	1,805	7,220	1,805	7,220
Ginseng, cases ...	24	48,000	—	—	24	48,000

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.									
No.	Colony, etc.								Year.
1220	Uganda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1221	Grenada	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1222	British Guiana	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1223	St. Vincent..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1224	St. Helena	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1225	Barbados	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1228	Hongkong	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1234	Mauritius	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1235	Straits Settlements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1236	Seychelles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1240	St. Lucia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1241	Bahamas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1924
1242	Falkland Islands..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1243	Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1244	Basutoland..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1924
1245	Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.				Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	..	..	..	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	..	..	..	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute..	..	..	..	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent..	..	..	..	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	..	..	..	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	..	..	..	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	..	..	..	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1249.

GAMBIA.

Report for 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1201)



LONDON:

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No. 1249.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1924.*

Preface.

The first descriptive accounts of the Gambia River date from the middle of the 15th century when Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the river in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some forty miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century; an English expedition fitted out in 1481 was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588, a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the charter which was made in 1591 is described in Hakluyt. The French, it appears, had then traded in these parts for above thirty years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals." The power of Portugal was then on the wane, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration, however, was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company, it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown. Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

* NOTE.—A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861 [Cd. 7622-53].

I.—Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years have been :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i> £	<i>Expenditure.</i> £	<i>Excess of Assets over Liabilities.</i> £
1920 ...	268,788	171,160	328,657
1921 ...	183,201	225,461	286,396
1922 ...	204,244	430,312 (a)	99,687
1923 ...	407,581 (b)	211,316	295,951
1924 ...	208,613	203,635	300,929

(a) includes £187,893 loss on demonetization of five franc pieces.

(b) includes £177,893 part of loan from West African Currency Board.

Customs receipts, which represent 64 per cent. of the total revenue of the Colony, brought in £133,425 against £161,877 the year before. Out of this sum the four chief items showed the following reductions on 1923 returns :—

	1924.	1923.
	£	£
Groundnuts ...	57,572	60,622
Kola nuts ...	29,231	37,301
<i>Ad valorem</i> duties ...	18,867	36,515
Tobacco ...	11,172	15,308

The large decrease of £17,648 in *ad valorem* duties is accounted for, as to £15,022 by a reduction in the importation of cotton goods owing to large stocks being held at the beginning of the year; as to the balance by the new classification of certain items formerly on an *ad valorem* basis, now dutiable at a specific rate.

Light dues at the rate of a shilling a ton have been charged on all vessels laden with cargo for Bathurst since the beginning of the year and with Buoyage and Wharfage dues have yielded £3,914.

£22,000 was paid as part redemption of the loan from the West African Currency Board. The original debt has now been reduced to £125,893.

II.—Trade and Agriculture.**(a) TRADE.**

The following table shows the balance of trade exclusive of specie during the last three years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Imports.</i> £	<i>Exports.</i> £	<i>Balance of Exports over Imports.</i> £
1922 ...	653,421	807,844	154,423
1923 ...	790,013	884,309	94,296
1924 ...	669,700	893,359	223,659

Imports.

The difference in the value of imports between 1924 and 1923 is mainly due to cotton piece-goods, of which only 2,947,529 yards, valued at £104,893, were imported, as against 8,476,219 yards valued at £232,770 in 1923.

In spite of the crops grown locally in the river swamps, a large quantity of imported rice was consumed in 1924 amounting to 7,490 tons, valued at £126,982, compared with 4,606 tons the previous year.

The United States continue to supply most of the non-edible oils, of which nearly 30,000 gallons more than last year were brought in.

87·76 per cent. of wines came from France as well as most of the biscuits, flour, sugar and soap.

The British share of the import trade, 54·31 per cent., was 15·16 per cent. less than that of 1923, France coming second with 16·97 per cent. and Germany third with 15·75 per cent.

Exports.

Of the total value of exports, groundnuts account for 96·48 per cent.; 54·12 per cent. went to England, and 33·79 per cent. to France. The low price of £10 a ton or 2s. 6d. a bushel offered to the farmers by the merchants in January at the commencement of the buying season, when more attractive prices were offered by their French competitors in Senegal, was perhaps the main factor in the crop being smaller than usual. Liverpool quotations for Gambia groundnuts averaged 4s. 3d. a bushel.

(b) AGRICULTURE.

The work of laying out the new Agricultural and Botanical Station at Cape St. Mary, began on 1st January and, by the end of June, 16 acres of bush land had been hand-ploughed or forked.

Plant nurseries have been established and two large glass houses have been built for raising special economic plants. A section of land has been divided into ten quarter-acre plots for ascertaining the manurial requirements of the groundnut.

Zaria, Philippine Red, Dixie Grant, Senegal and local varieties of nuts are being sown for experiment. A fumigatorium has been built on the station for the purpose of dealing with all imported plants and seeds.

Agricultural conditions in the Gambia differ mainly from those of other West African Colonies owing to the absence of hinterland. Practically the whole of the Protectorate lands consist of a narrow strip of low-lying land, six and a quarter miles broad, following the Gambia River along its course on either bank for a distance of 250 miles.

The population, which is unevenly distributed in the Protectorate, is 210,530, or 51 to the square mile.

Effective labour is to a large extent migratory and is diminishing as the following return of " Strange Farmers " for the last five years shows :—

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Strange Farmers.</i>
1920 ...	...	...	...	...	...	24,150
1921 ...	...	...	...	...	...	22,058
1922 ...	...	...	...	...	...	20,566
1923 ...	...	...	...	...	...	17,383
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	14,188

One cause of the decrease was attributed to the unsatisfactory system of produce inspection which has now been discontinued, but it is an undoubted fact that railway construction in Senegal, which will eventually enclose the Protectorate, has much to do with the dwindling numbers of " Strange Farmers " who enter the Protectorate each year to cultivate groundnuts and return to their homes with the proceeds of their labours. Instead of the system of inspection compulsory screening of nuts has been established with most satisfactory results.

Sixty-three buying stations have carried on business, as against seventy-five in the previous season.

It is hoped that with careful selection of seed the crops in future years will surpass in quantity, as they already do in quality, those of the past.

The tonnage and values of the last five years have been :—

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
1920 ...	...	...	...	84,037	2,322,032
1921 ...	...	...	...	59,175	628,901
1922 ...	...	...	...	64,800	780,889
1923 ...	...	...	...	64,178	864,885
1924 ...	...	...	...	60,622	861,925

Palm kernels have given better results than last year, 678 tons of a value of £10,571 having been exported, as against 392 tons of a value of £5,640 in 1923. The oil palm is being destroyed by bush fires and the mature palms are being exterminated by over-tapping for palm wine. Unless prompt action is taken palm kernels will, as in the case of rubber, cease to appear in the exports, but the difficulty of enforcing the prohibition of tapping the palms is obvious.

The lime tree is found growing under semi-wild conditions in the Protectorate and experiments are being made at Cape St. Mary with a view to the establishment of an industry in this fruit in the Gambia.

III.—Land and Climate.**(a) LAND.**

Ownership is hereditary in the Protectorate. Where land is not held or claimed by a native, it can be rented from the Government for a term, but freehold rights are not given. The land belongs to the people and each farmer is really the owner, so long as he continues to cultivate it.

Forests are non-existent and there are no European plantations.

A survey was made at Chargi in the South Bank Province in connection with a frontier dispute, and the line was delimited by iron pickets for later investigation by a Boundary Commission.

About 50 surveys for issue of title were made during the year and 161 titles were entered, consisting of 42 grants in fee simple (41 of them in Bathurst on old land applications), 104 leases and 15 wharf licences.

The rent roll of the Government in 1924 was £5,140.

(b) CLIMATE.

Meteorological returns for Bathurst and Georgetown are as follows :—

	Average max. shade.	Average min. shade.	Range.	Mean.	Rainfall in inches.
Bathurst ...	92·5	63·7	29	78·1	56·46
Georgetown ...	100·6	66·6	34	83·6	47·01

The highest maximum shade temperature was 110° F. in April at Georgetown.

The heaviest rainfall in one month was 26·14 inches in August at Bathurst.

The average of rainfall in Bathurst during the last 40 years has been :—

1884–1894 ...	...	...	...	51·56 inches.
1895–1904 ...	...	...	...	46·97 „
1905–1914 ...	...	...	...	44·47 „
1915–1924 ...	...	...	...	45·35 „

Though considerably above the average of the last 40 years, the total rainfall in 1924 was nine inches less than in 1923. The figures for the last five years being :—

1920 ...	...	...	...	34·29 inches.
1921 ...	...	...	...	35·12 „
1922 ...	...	...	...	45·71 „
1923 ...	...	...	...	65·38 „
1924 ...	...	...	...	56·46 „

IV.—Education.

During the year 1924 there were 1,688 children on the register of the elementary schools of the Gambia, 218 of whom attended the Mohammedan school and 82 the schools at Georgetown.

There are secondary schools also, maintained by the Wesleyans, and a Roman Catholic school for girls. The Gambia children are not less intelligent than their brothers and sisters in other Colonies, but indifferent teaching prevents most of them from attaining a satisfactory standard, apart from the fact that parents too often take their sons and daughters up river with them during the trading season and often remove them from school at an early age to work in the home.

The school attendance was again bad this year mainly owing to sickness and the inclement weather experienced during the rains.

Two medical inspections were carried out and physical exercises have been taken up with keen interest.

A football competition has caused immense enthusiasm amongst the scholars, but none of the schools have adequate playgrounds. It is unfortunate that when they were built years ago sufficient space was not allowed for recreation purposes.

It is hoped that the reclamation scheme will provide a remedy.

The results of the annual examinations were not as good as last year, especially so in hygiene.

At the teachers' examination there was only one successful candidate out of 12.

School libraries have been started so that the older children now have the chance of reading standard authors.

Two boys at present hold scholarships from the Government and are being educated at Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone.

V.—Communications.**(a) SHIPPING.**

The total of British, French, American, and German tonnage during the last four years has been :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>British.</i>	<i>French.</i>	<i>American.</i>	<i>German.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1921 ...	440,522	55,663	66,896	16,648	688,740
1922 ...	556,283	81,358	22,365	67,998	835,663
1923 ...	593,772	100,486	60,126	165,804	1,052,892
1924 ...	643,796	92,369	93,446	158,060	1,100,729

(b) MARINE DEPARTMENT.

The steamer "Prince of Wales," which was purchased by the Government in 1922, made 25 trips up the river during the

year, covering a distance of 12,760 miles. The " Prince of Wales " and " Vampire " run a regular service, the latter having made 23 trips with a total distance run of 11,530 miles.

Both vessels are well patronised for passenger traffic and freight.

Repairs of any importance have to be done at Dakar, but, when the slipway at Bathurst has been built, it will be possible to accommodate ships up to 400 tons.

The Marine Workshop and Store, close to the site of the slipway, was finished towards the end of the year and the machinery installed. The Department is now training its own apprentice engineers, both afloat and in the workshop.

The lighted buoys at the entrance of the river have worked well and are brought in every six months for testing and overhaul.

(c) POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

The correspondence dealt with during the past year shows a gradual rise.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number of Articles (letters, postcards, etc.)</i>					
1921	192,049
1922	208,938
1923	219,104
1924	229,938

6,681 parcels were received and despatched.

New steel call boxes have been provided at the Bathurst Post Office and are a great improvement on the old wooden type.

Money orders to the amount of £15,079 and postal orders to the amount of £6,871 were issued from the four land offices and the two travelling post offices on the " Prince of Wales " and " Vampire."

The Savings Bank deposits have fallen to £1,509, the lowest figure recorded in the past 25 years.

Wireless communication with Georgetown has been carried on throughout the year. The station at Basse was closed down during the rains. 2,231 messages in all were sent.

The new Central Battery Telephone system is now in good working order and 75 telephones have been installed.

VI.—The Protectorate.

Formerly it was said that one farm of nuts bought two of corn, but to-day the value of corn is proportionately so much higher that more corn and less nuts have been grown in some parts of the Provinces.

In the North Bank Province, village seed-nut stores have been built with good results. Every farmer at harvest time puts in three measures and just before the rains he receives back two for planting. The third belongs to the village and is distributed by the Headman.

In Kombo nuts are now bought by weight instead of by the bushel. The innovation has proved unpopular as the majority of farmers only understand the bushel measures and are quite ignorant of the use of scales. Now that Bathurst merchants send lorries to transport the nuts, many donkeys have been sold into French country. They, as well as the Kombo cattle, have again been gradually increasing in numbers, but it will be many years before the herds approach in size those which were seen before the plague in 1917.

At McCarthy Island the mainland groundnut trade from Georgetown has almost ceased on account of lighters and cutters being no longer employed by the merchants to transport nuts from the mainland villages of the South Bank Province to that town.

A chain ferry at Boraba is under consideration, as better prices are obtainable at Georgetown than in the neighbouring district.

The importance of Georgetown has been eclipsed of recent years by Kuntaur, which is the principal up-river shipping port. The depth of the stream here allows ocean-going steamers to come right alongside the wharves. The place, which contains only a few hundred people at other times, swells into a town of several thousand inhabitants during the trading season and presents a problem in regard to sanitation which the authorities are taking steps to solve.

VII.—Vital Statistics and Sanitation.

(a) STATISTICS.

In Bathurst there are 218 Europeans and 9,741 Africans and Syrians. 291 births were recorded during the year and 513 deaths, giving a birth and death rate of 30.90 and 52.66 per thousand respectively.

The infant mortality rate was 471 per thousand, as against 498 in 1923.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH.

Five cases of smallpox occurred, but none of plague in any part of the Colony or Protectorate.

Throughout the year an intensive campaign against rats was carried on in Bathurst. Rat infestation of all premises is now compulsorily notifiable.

Sand filling operations at the Cemetery have provided a large area of new burying ground and have also obliterated mosquito breeding places which have contributed largely to malaria in Bathurst.

(c) MEDICAL.

In-patients at the Colonial Hospital numbered 605, out-patients 13,609.

A Medical Officer and a Dispenser are stationed at Georgetown and a Dispenser at the West African Frontier Force cantonments; the rest of the medical staff are at headquarters.

Since the correction of the dietary at the Gaol, no cases of beri-beri have occurred, so that it is justifiable to claim that the "nutritional" theory is sound.

A serious outbreak of epidemic, diagnosed as relapsing fever, broke out in three villages in the North Bank Province, causing the deaths of 685 people out of a total of 2,790.

VIII.—Judicial.

(a) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The Supreme Court disposed of 33 cases, as against 38 in 1923.

Twenty-five of them were for offences against property, nine of which were traders' cases under the Criminal Law Ordinance of 1855. An unusual charge was that against a woman who was convicted of forging a cheque.

In the Police Court there was a considerable increase in the number of persons brought up. Larceny and cognate offences still figure far too prominently. The number of summonses for default in payment of local rates was chiefly due to trade depression.

In the Protectorate Tribunals the commonest offences are assaults, petty larceny and cattle thefts.

Fines, as usual, continue to be the general form of penalty inflicted.

(b) LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed in 1924.

The most important were those dealing with Customs, the Adulteration of Produce, and the Repatriation of Aliens. The Adulteration of Produce Ordinance deals with compulsory screening of nuts.

Regulations concerning public health, the police, and motor traffic were made by the Governor in Council.

(c) POLICE.

Four sub-inspectors, appointed early in the year, have added to the efficiency of the Force, which has been maintained at the authorised strength of 2 Officers, 8 Warrant Officers and 146 N.C.O.s and men.

Six boys were taken on as band apprentices. They have been taught music by the Bandmaster and, considering the time they have been under tuition, they play extraordinarily well.

A section of constables are trained as firemen, but no fires of a serious nature occurred during the 12 months under review.

No case of drunkenness was reported in any of the 17 premises licensed for the sale of liquor.

The Domestic Servants Registration Ordinance, which has been in force since 1922, is carried out by the Police and has had beneficial results.

During the whole of 1924 only one case of theft was brought against a registered servant by his master out of 308 on the books.

(d) PRISON.

Three hundred prisoners were admitted, with a daily average of 102. Their health has been much improved by the use of unpolished rice and vegetables from the prison garden.

A female prison has been added and quarters for the matron.

The prisoners are employed on public works, wood cutting and splitting, gardening, and cleaning of Government buildings and grounds.

IX.—Public Works.

The four large schemes for Bathurst, namely, Drainage, Fire Protection, Electric Light, and Slipway, have progressed so slowly that the construction stage will not be reached until next year.

The drainage scheme includes the purchase of a dredger and the raising of low-lying areas about 2 feet above low-tide level. These areas have always been subject to flooding during the rainy season and it is proposed to remove the inhabitants of the tidal swamp areas and to provide accommodation for them in the reclaimed area of some 25 acres at Half Die.

The protection of Bathurst against fire has been a matter of urgency for long past. It has now been decided to raise the pressure in the Bathurst water mains by the use of pumps. The normal pressure in, and capacity of, the mains is inadequate for this purpose. A continuous supply of water will be ensured by the provision of a tank of 150,000 gallons capacity.

The installation of an electric light and power plant capable of meeting the public and private demands for electricity in Bathurst has been prepared for by the conversion of the Gaol into a central power-house to hold two alternators of 100 kilowatts and one alternator of 50 kilowatts, the machines being coupled direct to semi-Diesel oil engines. Distribution will be by overhead network supplying current at 220 volts with 440 volts between outer wires.

The Slipway at Half Die is designed to deal with ships up to 150 feet in length and of 400 tons dead weight. The attempt to build a slipway in 1914 was rendered abortive by the insecurity of the foundations. Careful investigations and borings have therefore been made during the year to ensure the safety of the superstructure.

The supply of labour, both skilled and unskilled, has been adequate, there being no large works in the Colony to cause a shortage.

The rate of wages of unskilled labour remained constant, while that of skilled labour fell slightly. Whenever possible, work has been done by piece work or petty contract, rather than by day wage labour.

This system has been adopted in the making of furniture from "Conta" wood specially imported from Sierra Leone, there being little suitable wood in the Gambia. It was feared that good cabinet work would be rather beyond the ability of the local native carpenter, but the result has proved otherwise and it is anticipated that the furniture made in the Public Works Department will stand the climate better than the inferior and more expensive imported oak and pine suites.

X.—General.

Three calls were made during the year by the gunboats "Thistle" and "Dwarf," and a short visit was paid by the French man-of-war "Cassiopee."

A successful celebration of Empire Day included an assembly in McCarthy Square of the children attending the various schools in Bathurst, together with the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and Brownies. Athletic sports of a more ambitious nature than formerly were held in the afternoon. The Wesleyans once more obtained the majority of prizes and the Championship flag.

The Reading and Recreation Room for the African Community in the centre of the town, opened by the Government in 1922, was closed as it was hardly ever used by those for whom it was intended. The premises have been handed over to the Public Health Department, and their offices in Buckle Street are now used as the headquarters of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

Part of the old Secretariat has been turned into a Club. Its proximity to the tennis courts makes it a convenient social centre for the town. Accommodation for the staff has been increased by the purchase of an old stone residence in Lemman Street.

An incident worthy of mention is the retirement in perfect health of Monsieur Bourquin after forty years' service in Bathurst with the firm of Maurel Frères.

C. R. M. WORKMAN,
Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia,
26th May, 1925.

The following Appendices are printed :—

- (1) Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the year 1924 for the Colony of the Gambia.
- (2) List of principal firms trading in the Gambia.
- (3) List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

PUBLICATIONS ON THE GAMBIA.

" The Gambia Colony," F. B. Archer (St. Bride's Press). 1905.

" The Gambia," H. Reeve (Smith, Elder). 1912.

Annual Trade Report of the Colony, 1923, obtainable from the Crown Agents.

Appendix I.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1924 FOR THE GAMBIA.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.

During 1924 the following investigations and enquiries were carried out for the Government of the Gambia:—

“Oysters” from Bintang Creek.—In continuation of the previous enquiry relating to the “oysters” occurring at the Bintang Creek on the Gambia River, two further sets of specimens were received during 1924. These “oysters,” after being salted and dried, are sold in the Bathurst market, but enquiries made by the Imperial Institute in 1921 showed that they would not be saleable in the United Kingdom. It was, however, of interest to establish their identity, and on referring the first specimens to the Natural History Museum it was ascertained that they were not oysters but probably belonged to the group to which the ark-shells (*Arcidae*) are referred. Further specimens were therefore requested, and three further sets since received from Bintang Creek have each been identified at the Museum as a species of oyster (*Ostrea parasitica*, Gmelin). Another set of specimens obtained from the Gambia River, about a mile above McCarthy Island, were identified at the Museum as a species of *Aetheria* (probably *A. elliptica*), a fresh-water genus which is widely distributed in Africa.

Groundnuts.—In connection with efforts of the Agricultural Department to improve the quality of the groundnut crop, an enquiry was received from the Department regarding the high percentage of free fatty acids in certain consignments imported into the United Kingdom. The high average of 4.75 per cent. in last year's crop was probably due to the causes mentioned by the Department, viz., the exceptionally heavy rainfall and the prevalence of the fungus *Cercospora personata*. The unusually high figure of 12½ per cent. reported in the case of certain shipments was, however, probably due mainly to the presence of unsound nuts, consisting of rotten nuts, which were said to have been mixed with the sound nuts, and nuts which had suffered from being stored under moist, warm conditions. At the suggestion of the Institute a number of representative samples of Gambia groundnuts were subsequently forwarded in connection with this enquiry and were under examination at the close of the year.

Elephant Grass.—In view of the fact that elephant grass is abundant in the Gambia, an enquiry was received from the Director of the Agricultural Department regarding its utilisation for paper-making. In reply, information was supplied regarding investigations carried out at the Institute with elephant grass from other parts of Africa which indicated that the stems are quite satisfactory for paper-making but that they could not be exported profitably for the purpose. If, however, a pulp-mill were established in the country of origin for the preparation of paper-pulp from the grass it should be possible to market the pulp in Europe in competition with wood-pulp.

Other enquiries dealt with related to the general conditions of life in the Colony.

British Empire Exhibition.

The Imperial Institute was allotted space in H.M. Government Pavilion at Wembley for an exhibit to illustrate its work in promoting the utilisation of the raw materials of the Empire. The nature and scope of the investigations carried out were indicated by selected examples from each of the principal groups of raw materials. A

number of West African products were shown in this exhibit, including the following which are produced in the Gambia:—Oil Palm products; Cotton; Hibiscus fibre and other jute-like fibres; and Kapok.

Publications.

An article on the Agricultural and Forest Resources of the Gambia was published in the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute during the year.

Gambia Court.

The area and position of the Court has not been changed during the year, and no new exhibits have been received for exhibition.

Lectures on the Gambia, with explanation of the products in the Court, have been given to the public and to parties from schools by the Guide Lecturers and by the officers in charge of the collections.

Specimens of Gambia products have been supplied to schools for teaching purposes.

12th March, 1925.

Appendix II.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade:—

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any).
*African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd.	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
*Barthes et Lesieur ...	" "	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
*Bathurst Trading Co. Ltd.	" "	34, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.
*Etablissement Maurel et Prom.	" "	18, Rue Porte Dijaux, Bordeaux.
*Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	" "	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
*Gambia Trading Co. ...	Buckle Street	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
*Maurel Frères ...	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
*Louis Vezia & Co. ...	" "	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
*Palmine, Ltd. ...	" "	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
Antoine Blain ...	" "	—

*Members of the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

Appendix III.

List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and vice-versa.

*S. J. Foster, M.A., B.C.L.(Oxon.), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

†I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

*M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

†G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent.

†Trade Mark Agent.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1220	Uganda	1923
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States.. .. .	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands.. .. .	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Wei-hai-wei	1924

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-Seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1251.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1224.)



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

Astral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London. S.W.1;

York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;

or through any Bookseller.

1925.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1251.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

I.—Financial.**(a) REVENUE.**

The revenue for the year amounted to £12,699 4s. 1d., exclusive of any grant-in-aid, thus showing an increase, as compared with the previous year's revenue, of £1,189 14s. 9d.

With the exception of two, all heads of revenue were in excess of the estimate.

The increase in revenue was mainly due to larger imports, sale of postage stamps to non-resident dealers, and to a general improvement in the economic conditions of the Island.

There was a grant-in-aid of £4,000 to general revenue and a grant of £3,000 was authorised for ant-resisting timber for repairs to Government House. The latter grant was not, however, received, as it was not possible to arrange for the purchase of the timber within the financial year.

(b) EXPENDITURE.

The year's expenditure amounted to £14,182 3s. There were savings under all heads with the exception of one.

A gratifying feature of the year's finances was the reduction of the Colony's overdraft with the Crown Agents from £7,500 on 1st January to £1,500 on 31st December.

(c) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

There was a marked improvement in the statement of assets and liabilities, the balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st December being £2,777 8s. 3d., as compared with £260 7s. 2d. on 31st December of the preceding year.

(d) CURRENCY.

Bills of exchange on the Crown Agents issued during the year amounted to £13,599 6s. 8d. There was no importation or exportation of specie.

II.—Trade, Agriculture and Industries.**(a) TRADE.***Revenue.*

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £3,985 6s., being an increase of £469 18s. 2d. as compared with the revenue of the previous year.

The principal excesses of revenue appear under wharfage dues, £32 12s. 6d.; import duties, £257 13s. 1d.; tonnage dues, £198 17s. 9d.; and export wharfage, £53 17s. 7d.

The increase under import duties is due to a larger consumption of spirits, owing to the introduction of a cheaper brand, and to improved conditions generally. The increase under tonnage dues is due to two Admiralty colliers arriving within the year, and paying 1s. per ton on 3,559 tons of coal landed.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year on Customs services amounted to £438 6s. 6d., as against £376 5s. 9d. in 1923, showing an increase of £62 0s. 9d. This increase is due to the salary, £10, of the Registrar of Deeds, etc., being embodied in the Customs expenditure; increase of salary for crane overseer, £12; extra refund of duty on beer supplied to the troops, £10 7s. 8d.; and petty refunds of £14 17s. 4d.

Imports.

The value of imports in 1924 amounted to £51,421, as compared with £47,948 in 1923, thus showing an increase of £3,473. The principal increases occurred under animals, £376; butter and margarine, £537; coal, £727; rice, £342; wine, £322; foodstuffs (other than enumerated), £1,183; and machinery, £1,289.

Advantage having been taken of the arrival of Admiralty colliers, a large consignment of anthracite coal was imported for use in two of the flax mills. This accounts for the increase under coal. Rope machinery to the value of £1,600 is accountable for the increase under machinery.

Principal decreases appear under boats, £300; drapery and dry goods, £320; flour, £768; oilman stores, £478.

Exports.

The value of exports for the year under review amounted to £36,160, an increase of £9,794 when compared with the previous year. This increase is wholly due to the export of larger quantities of fibre and tow, which commanded a higher market price than in 1923. Fibre and tow exported during the year amounted to 694 and 284 tons respectively, valued at £27,078 and £7,113, as compared with the previous year's shipments of 634 and 216 tons, valued at £18,196 and £4,968. Decreases occurred under

rope, £488, the ropery having closed down during the year; potatoes, £490, none being exported; and sheep, £411, Ascension having imported the last-named direct from South Africa.

(b) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

Owing to the absence of rain, the year under review, like its predecessor, cannot be considered favourable from an agricultural view-point. The potato crops were poor; in fact, this commodity had to be imported. June, July and August were very dry months, and pasture lands were getting bare and herbage short by September, when fortunately rain fell, which improved the position.

Maldivia Garden.—The amount derived from the sale of fruit from "Maldivia" was £83 15s. 5d., as against an expenditure of £67 16s. The balance standing to the credit of this fund at the end of the year was £33 9s. 1d.

Botley's Lay.—The revenue derived from the Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay amounted to £104 16s. 7d., the expenditure being £85 7s. 8d. A credit balance of £61 15s. 9d. remained on the 31st December.

Certain necessary improvements were undertaken during the year, the principal being the construction of drinking troughs for cattle.

Owing to the dry weather causing a scarcity of food some of the poorer people lost their cattle.

(c) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—The Government flax mill ran on 178 days, up to the 10th September of the year under review. On the 16th October the working of the mill was handed over to a private London company called The St. Helena Corporation, Ltd.

Particulars of output, etc., up to the 10th September, under Government control, are as follows:—946 tons of green leaf were milled, producing 102 tons of fibre and 32½ tons of tow. The average price obtained in the London market up to the above date was £33 per ton.

Under the control of the St. Helena Corporation, Ltd., from the 16th October to the 31st December, 345 tons green leaf were handled, producing 26 tons fibre and 17 tons tow.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon & Co.'s mills at Sandy Bay and Broadbottom worked throughout the year. The following figures show the output of the mills named:—

Sandy Bay	..	..	..	142 tons fibre.
				28 tons tow.
Broadbottom	..	..	..	121½ tons fibre.
				33 tons tow.

Forty-six persons were employed at the mill at Sandy Bay and 40 at Broadbottom.

Messrs. Deason Brother's mill at Hutts Gate produced 245 tons fibre and 147 tons tow, employing 154 people.

Messrs. W. A. Thorpe & Son's mill at "Francis Plain" produced 90 tons fibre and 60 tons tow, and gave employment to 39 people.

(d) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels calling at the Port during the year under review was 34, being 3 less than in 1923. All of these were of British nationality, except one Norwegian whaler, one American yacht, and one American merchant ship. One British cruiser, H.M.S. "Weymouth," also visited the Colony.

The total number of vessels sighted at the station was 40, as compared with 51 in 1923.

Thirty vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown, their net total tonnage being 131,592, as compared with 122,261 in the preceding year.

III.—Education.

The work of the schools went on efficiently during the year, and the general standard was well maintained. In one of the Government schools, in addition to the ordinary curriculum, a start has been made in freehand drawing and elementary algebra. It is hoped to extend these additions to the senior standards in the other schools.

The number of children attending school was :—

Government schools	236
Other schools	364

The attendance at school throughout the year was good. There were no prosecutions under the Education Ordinance.

The Superintendent of Education personally examined the schools at the end of each quarter, and he has expressed satisfaction at the good work each school is doing.

A technical class is sadly needed where instruction in carpentry and other crafts could be given, with advantage, to the bigger boys.

The pupil teachers have regularly received instructions from the Superintendent in English, arithmetic, elementary algebra, geography, physiography, and as an optional subject, shorthand. At the end of the year, of the seven receiving instruction, four passed out, having completed their four years' course, and are now graded as ex-pupil teachers preliminary to becoming second-class assistant teachers.

The needlework at the country school and girls' school in Jamestown has progressed with very satisfactory results.

IV.—Government Institutions.**(a) HOSPITAL.**

One hundred and sixty-nine persons were admitted to the hospital during the year, there being eight admissions less than in the previous year. There were three deaths, equivalent to 2 per cent., against 4·5 per cent. in the previous year.

The average number of indoor patients per day was 10.

(b) SAVINGS BANK.

On the 31st December of the year under review there were 206 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank, as against 178 on the same date in 1923.

Cash deposits amounted to £3,452 12s. 9d., the deposits during the previous year having been £4,751 19s. 6d., a falling off of £1,299 6s. 9d. This is, however, due to the several local benefit societies re-depositing their funds during 1923 after the closing of the local branch of the National Bank of South Africa, in which bank their money was deposited.

Repayment to depositors amounted to £2,475 6s. 1d., compared with £2,349 13s. 9d. in the previous year.

Stock to the value of £12,082 0s. 10d., cost price, was invested on account of the Savings Bank on the 31st December.

V.—Judicial Statistics.**(a) CRIMINAL.***Supreme Court.*

Seven cases came before the Supreme Court during the year under review. Of these, five cases were heard, resulting in one acquittal and four convictions in which sentences were passed ranging from six to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour. The remaining two cases were referred to the Hilary Sessions.

The various charges involved included the following offences:—

- (a) Causing actual bodily harm with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.
- (b) Rape.
- (c) Indecent assault with intent to commit a felony.
- (d) Obtaining goods and money by false pretences.
- (e) Forgery and uttering forged documents.
- (f) Perjury.
- (g) Larceny.

On the Civil side there has been very little court work.

Police Court.

Thirty-two cases were dealt with in this court, as against 57 in the preceding year. There were 18 convictions, 4 sent up for trial in the Supreme Court, 10 withdrawn or discharged.

Small Debts Court.

Only one case came before this court during the year.

(b) PRISONS.

Sixteen persons were sent to gaol during the year, as compared with 21 in 1923.

The daily average number in gaol was 2·9 as against 0·9 in 1923.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £135 6s. 7d., an increase of £27 1s. 5d. over the previous year.

VI.—Legislation.

Four Ordinances were promulgated during the year namely :—

No. 1. The Harbour (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 2. The Elementary Education (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 3. The Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 4. The Supplementary Expenditure (1923) Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 1 makes provision for the harbour master to receive a boarding fee.

Ordinance No. 2 repeals Section IV of Ordinance No. 2 of 1903, entitled the Elementary Education Ordinance, 1903, which provided for the number of attendances at school in each year.

Ordinances Nos. 3 and 4. Both of these were in connection with public expenditure.

VII.—Vital Statistics.*(a) POPULATION.*

The civil population on the 31st December, 1924, was estimated at 3,703, an increase of 49 over that of the previous year.

Civil emigrants numbered 149 and immigrants 130, as compared with 191 and 101 respectively of the year previous.

There were 38 deaths during the year, as against 28 in 1923. Out of the 38 deaths, 11 were under the age of one year. The death-rate was 10·23 per 1,000, compared with 7·66 in 1923.

The number of births was 106 (not including 4 still-born), as against 114 (and 2 still-born) in the preceding year.

Illegitimates registered in 1924 were 36, being 8 less than in 1923.

Marriages solemnized during the year were 21, being 1 more than in the previous year.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH.

It will be observed above that the infant mortality was large, but no specific reason can be assigned. The deaths were all from what might be termed natural causes in very young children.

A mild epidemic of influenza was prevalent in the months of February and March, but there was no appreciable rise in the death-rate on this account. On the whole the general health of the Colony during the year can be considered as good.

(c) SANITARY.

The Board of Health met regularly during the year and various matters were discussed and dealt with by the Board.

The drainage system worked very satisfactorily and the water supply proved ample and good.

There were no prosecutions under the Board of Health Ordinance during the year.

(d) CLIMATE.

Meteorological Statistics, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·100, as against 28·101 in the previous year.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 60·3°, as compared with 62·0° in 1923.

The absolute maximum, 81·5°, was registered on the 1st March, as compared with 80·1° on the 25th July of the previous year.

The absolute minimum temperature was 51·1°, recorded on the 9th August, the corresponding record in 1923 having been 50·0° on the 8th July.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 1·6, as against 1·8 in 1923.

There were 60 calm days, as compared with 23 in the previous year.

The direction for the year was as follows :—

S.E.	..	..	..	..	..	248 days.
S.S.E.	..	..	..	..	..	14 days.
E.S.E.	..	..	..	..	..	44 days.
Calm	..	..	..	..	..	60 days.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall recorded at Hutts Gate for the year was 33·160 in., as against 45·740 in 1923. The maximum fall, 1·11 in., was recorded on the 7th February. It will be observed that the year was a particularly dry one, just over 12½ fewer inches of rain falling than in the previous year. August, which is generally a wet month, was very dry, 1·73 in. only having been recorded on 13 days. Rain fell on 174 days, as compared with 193 in 1923.

The total rainfall recorded in Jamestown for the year under review was 3·87.

VIII.—Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.**(a) POST OFFICE.***Revenue.*

The total revenue from all sources for the year under review amounted to £3,514 2s. 6d., being an increase over the previous year's revenue of £81 19s. 3d. This increase is principally accounted for by the sale of postage stamps to non-resident dealers.

Expenditure.

Postal expenditure amounted to £885 9s. 9d., an increase of £112 13s. 5d. over that of 1923. This is mainly due to the printing of new stamps for the Dependency of Ascension, and carriage of mails.

The net income of the Colony for the year from all postal transactions was £2,628 12s. 9d.

Mail Matter.

The mail matter dealt with at the Post Office during the year will be gathered from the following summary:—

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere—					1923.	1924.
Bags of mail	..	..	..	..	225	241
Parcels	..	..	..	..	2,267	2,160
Registered articles	..	..	..	..	1,475	2,341
To the United Kingdom and elsewhere—						
Bags of mail	..	..	..	..	100	103
Parcels	..	..	..	..	573	476
Registered articles	..	..	..	..	2,238	2,073

Money and Postal Orders.

Under this head the transactions were as follows:—

	1923.	1924.
	£	£
To the United Kingdom and South Africa ..	11,836	11,188
From the United Kingdom and South Africa ..	2,375	2,518

The amount of commission received on the above transactions for the year was £127 4s. 5d., a decrease of £33 14s. 8d. as compared with the previous year.

(b) TELEGRAPHS.

There are no inland telegraphs. There is an important cable station maintained by The Eastern Telegraph Company with a staff of 16.

(c) TELEPHONES.

The telephone system, which is supported by private subscribers, works satisfactorily. The receipts from messages during the year amounted to £112 10s. 2d., with an expenditure of £101 1s. 10d. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £84 9s. 3d. and £94 8s. 8d. respectively.

IX.—General Observations.**(a) ROADS.**

The rural roads were maintained during the year at a cost of £910 1s., a saving under the estimated cost of £39 19s. The amount spent during the previous year on this service was £976 8s. 6d.

The year was exceptionally dry and there was an absence of floods in March, consequently the roads did not suffer to the same extent as in previous years. The work on the roads was more in the nature of patching. The greatest difficulty in road-making in St. Helena is transport, as material has very often to be carried over considerable distances and, owing to the hilly nature of the Island, this is both laborious and slow. From the savings effected under the vote, two mules were imported from South Africa. These have proved to be of immense help in transport of road-mending material. On the whole the roads were maintained in good order, which reflects very creditably on those responsible for this service.

(b) REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS.

Of the vote of £550 for this service a sum of £494 11s. 5d. was expended during the year. This covered the wages of the artisans and labourers employed, and importation of stores. Several very necessary repairs were carried out, which included renovating "Maldivia House" and stables, painting "Plantation House," painting the Post Office, repairs to Longwood New House and stables, rebuilding a wall at the Court House, repairs to the Country School, and many other minor works.

It was not possible to import the cypress timber, for which a special grant had been voted, during the year, for renovating Government House. It is hoped that this consignment of timber will arrive early in 1925.

(c) LAND GRANTS.

Thirty grants of land for flax-growing and the building of cottages were made during the year, covering a total of 31½ acres.

(d) RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living was slightly higher than in 1923, made so by a rise in price of certain essentials as will be observed from the following summary :—

					1923.	1924.
Flour	..	..	..	..	3d. per lb.	3½d.
Bread	..	..	..	..	4d. per 1½ lb.	5d.
Sugar	..	..	..	..	6d. per lb.	5d.
Dripping	..	..	..	..	1s. per lb.	1s. 4d.
Tea	..	..	..	..	2s. 3d. per lb.	2s. 3d.
Salt	..	..	..	..	2d. per lb.	2d.
Rice	..	..	..	..	3d. per lb.	3½d.

Rates of wages remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 2s. to 2s. 6d. daily. There was very little unemployment during the year, the several local flax mills, the Eastern Telegraph Company, and the Phosphate Company at Ascension having absorbed nearly all the available labourers.

(e) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

An expenditure of £2,414 10s. 10d. was incurred under " Works Recurrent " during the year under review, out of which £910 was expended in repair of roads and £494 in repair of buildings.

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board amounted to £1,024 16s. 6d., and the expenditure to £885 13s. 2d., as against £1,072 16s. 5d. and £930 8s. 5d. respectively in 1923.

Public Market.

The revenue of the market for the year was £37 6s. 3d. and expenditure £46 19s. 11d.

Dog Tax.

£110 10s. was collected under Dog Tax as compared with £102 in 1923.

(f) MISCELLANEOUS.

It is with regret that I have to record the death, in August of the year under review, of Colonel R. F. Peel, C.M.G., after a very short illness.

It is many years since a Governor has died at his post in this Colony, the last having been the late Mr. H. R. Janish, C.M.G., in 1884.

The death of Colonel Peel came as a great shock to all classes of the community, and his loss was universally mourned. His sound administration, his great interest in agriculture, and his striking personality, soon won for him the confidence and esteem of the Island people.

The Honourable W. J. J. Arnold acted as Governor from the death of Colonel Peel until the end of the year.

Dr. F. de C. Keogh, Acting Colonial Surgeon, left the Colony on the 31st December, having completed his three years' engagement.

ASCENSION.

The administration of Ascension for the time being is undertaken by the Eastern Telegraph Company, who worthily maintain the tradition of the Admiralty administration.

The Superintendent of the Company acts as Resident Magistrate, and certain other members of the staff perform harbour and postal duties.

The revenue for Ascension for the year 1924 was £4,581 7s. 8d. and the expenditure £2,267 1s. 8d. The accounts of the Dependency are controlled at St. Helena and merged with the general accounts of the Colony.

C. H. HARPER,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

THE CASTLE,

ST. HELENA,

21st May, 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

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1235	Straits Settlements	"
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1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
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1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
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1248	Wei-hai-wei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	Brunei	"

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88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
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90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1252.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1923-24.

(For Report for 1922-23 see No. 1200.)



LONDON:

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1925

PRINTED IN THE GOLD COAST.

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REPORT ON ASHANTI

FOR 1923—24.

GOLD COAST:

Government Printing Department Accra.

1924.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON ASHANTI, 1923-1924.

FINANCIAL.

Ashanti is constitutionally separate and distinct from the Gold Coast Colony and the Northern Territories, but so far as Finance is concerned, all three are treated as a single unit. It is, therefore, impossible to estimate the Revenue and Expenditure, except those items which are purely local.

REVENUE.

2. Local receipts amounted to £56,347, which compared with £63,866 in 1922-23, and £57,200 in 1921-22, thus showing a decrease under 1922-23 of £7,519 and £853 under 1921-22.

The most important items were :—

	1923-24.	1922-23.
Motor Licences	£2,646	£2,576
Spirit Licences	6,905	6,291
Firearms, etc	367	261
Court Fines and Fees ...	7,221	9,313
Rents of Government lands ...	6,910	7,510
Mining Royalties	16,235	20,260

Of the above items Motor Licences, Spirit Licences and Firearms show an increased revenue, whilst Court Fines and Fees, Rent of Government land, and Mining Royalties all show a decreased revenue.

3. It is regretted that no separate statistics in respect of Import and Export for goods imported into and produce exported from Ashanti are available, and the only method of arriving at an approximate estimate would be from detailed figures supplied by the Railway showing the various classes of merchandise imported into and of produce exported from Ashanti. The quantity of produce exported from Ashanti by road is negligible, except Kola which is estimated to be approximately 3,000 tons and which goes overland to the north.

4. Railway Receipts were as follows, viz. :—

Coaching	£52,076
GOODS FROM STATIONS IN ASHANTI.	
Cocoa	239,826
Kola	8,566
General Merchandise ...	7,637
Merchandise to Stations in Ashanti	129,444
Total	<u>£437,549</u>

The Railway receipts were stated to be, for the previous year, £285,000, but as the Accra-Kumasi Railway was not completely opened for traffic until 3rd September, there can be no true comparison between the year under review and the previous years.

5. In former years it has been stated in the Annual Reports: a share of the Post Office Revenue and of interest on general account should be credited to Ashanti. "Also the Revenue of Ashanti from sources is easily assignable". The writer does not agree with the latter statement and therefore omits from this report any estimates which on investigation may be ascertained to be unreliable.

EXPENDITURE.

6. The local expenditure in Ashanti for all departments, except Railway expenditure for which no separate figures are kept for Ashanti, was £233,176 as compared with £236,201 during the previous year, a decrease of £3,025 and a small increase of £976 as compared with 1921-22.

The principal items of expenditure were:—

	1923-24.		1922-23.
Political Administration ...	£32,110	...	£31,714
Medical and Sanitary Services	29,394	...	32,108
Gold Coast Regiment ...	36,591	...	50,748
Public Works Department ...	15,181	...	17,043
Public Works Annually Recurrent ...	25,389	...	27,228
Public Works Extraordinary, including special expenditure ...	44,042	...	14,163

As compared with the previous year the Political Administration showed a small increase, and the Public Works Extraordinary, including Special Expenditure, showed a very large increase, whilst Medical and Sanitary Services, Gold Coast Regiment, Public Works Department and Public Works Annually Recurrent all show considerable decreases. These items of expenditure do not call for detailed criticism.

TRADE.

7. The oversea trade of Ashanti consists of practically the same goods as that of the Gold Coast Colony and is fully reported on by the Comptroller of Customs in his Annual Trade Report of the Gold Coast.

The value of the goods imported overseas into Ashanti and the value of the produce exported from Ashanti are not declared in Ashanti, but at the shipping ports, and are not treated separately. There is no obligation on Importers and Exporters to declare the value and numbers of goods imported into and exported from Ashanti. The only figures available to indicate the course of trade are the tonnage figures supplied by the Railway, which are fully set out under the Head of Railway in this Report. A certain amount of local trade is carried on overland, the principal import being cattle and the principal export being Kola. The articles of

other imports and exports overland are negligible. There is no Customs Preventive Service in Ashanti and, therefore, there are no certain well defined routes, except the motor roads which lead to the North and West. On certain of these roads, for instance at Kintampo, the police record the number of cattle and sheep which pass through the station, and it was reported that 6,423 head of cattle and 28,904 head of sheep passed through Kintampo last year, going south to the Kumasi and other markets. Again, at Ejura the Provincial Commissioner reports "the number of four gallon tins of kerosene which passed through Ejura during the year *en route* for the Northern Territories was nearly 2,000 more than the previous year and double that of the year 1921." The figures given for 1921 were 1,800 loads of kerosene, a load of kerosene being two four gallon tins. Such figures are, however, unreliable, and cannot be accepted as accurate. Kintampo is not the only route for cattle from the North, and the owners of cattle are not bound to enter the country at any particular point. Further, almost all the trade going North (except Kola) such as Cottons, Kerosene and imported goods is now principally conveyed by motors, whereas last year and previous years a much larger proportion was conveyed by head loads.

The Provincial Commissioners' reports, however, may be of interest.

The Commissioner Eastern Province reports :—

"Trade is reported to have shown an improvement on last year. The natives bought, but bought quietly. The sales which are regulated more or less by the price of cocoa, which was down nearly to the pre-war level, did not admit of buying many things which were still priced well above the 1914 figures. Besides the numerous European firms which operate in Ashanti, a larger number of Syrians, Lagosians and Hausas are engaged in trading. The Syrians seem to be increasing in number, wealth, and influence."

The Commissioner Western Province reports :—

"Trade has shown a decided improvement in the vicinity of the motor roads. For instance, the people of Chirrah on the Sunyani-Wenchi Road state that last year they could not sell their cocoa, while owing to the opening of this road this year, they have disposed of all their available cocoa at prices ranging from 3/- to 5/- a load.

"The opening of the Sunyani-Kumasi Road should result in a very considerable increase of trade, for it taps the most productive cocoa area in the Province, and the European firms there intend opening establishments at Sunyani and elsewhere in the Province."

AGRICULTURE.

8. It has been remarked that cocoa is the foundation of the peace and prosperity of Ashanti. The Government is, however, not confining its attention to the cultivation of cocoa only. There are in Ashanti three Agricultural Stations, viz. :—Kumasi, Juaso, the Headquarters of the Ashanti-Akim District, and Ejura, the pre-

sent Headquarters of the Mampong District. Various experiments were conducted at all these Stations with indigenous and introduced crops. An innovation introduced during the year, which may have far-reaching results in the future, was a series of manurial experiments with cocoa, but at the end of the year the results of the experiment were not known.

In addition to these Agricultural Stations, six Senior Officers were engaged on itinerant instructional work during the year. Much good work was done in this connection and almost every village in the Eastern Province was visited and the more important centres in the Western Province. Further, fifteen Africans trained in cocoa cultivation were also constantly employed and all the villages in the cocoa areas were visited. It is gratifying to record that these instructions were welcomed by the people. They did much to improve the general condition of farms and, it is hoped, the quality of the prepared product. The steadily increasing number of fermentaries was largely due to their efforts and assistance.

Cocoa.

9. The crop throughout was good and in excess of the previous year, but the quality was not marked by any appreciable improvement. Early in the season the price was below normal, but improved later and remained fairly steady. As the result of the twelve months working the tonnage carried on the railway serves to give a good idea of the actual contribution which Ashanti makes towards the actual exports from the Gold Coast Colony. The quantity carried by the rail was 61,176 tons, an increase of 6,769 tons over the tonnage for the previous year. Under the auspices of the Gold Coast Agricultural and Commercial Society a "Cocoa Farm Competition" and a very successful Agricultural Show were held at Bekwai in December. There were three hundred entrants for the Cocoa Farm Competition and a very large number of people attended the show.

10. It is of interest to record that the only Agricultural Plantation owned and managed by Europeans is that of the Abomposu Estates, which is situated some six miles south-east of Akrokerri, in a well watered valley, which is admirably sheltered by surrounding hills.

The Estate is owner-managed and worked on strict business lines. Sufficient attention has been given to the preparation of the cocoa crop that it sold in Liverpool as a first class product, and disposed of under the "A" clause.

11. The rates charged for transport of cocoa by motor lorries varied between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{11}$ per ton mile, the lesser rate being charged on main roads where heavy lorries were used. There has been little fluctuation since April, 1923, although the cost of transport was lower than during the preceding year. A considerable amount of transport was done by Syrians, who have a large and increasing fleet of motor lorries in Kumasi and who were able to cut prices.

12. Cocoa areas generally were extended during the year, particularly in the Mampong and Kumawu Divisions. The Omani-hene of Adansi made Rules for the control of the farm extension, but no report has been received whether these Rules were enforced.

13. Diseases and pests are all too common in Ashanti and the difficulty is to find economic means of control which the farmers can, and will, apply systematically. Every encouragement was given to the farmers, as in the past, to increase the resistance of their trees by good husbandry, but natural enemies attacking the bark and pods, lower the vitality of the trees, leaving open wounds for the ingress of countless spores.

Oil Palms.

14. Special efforts were made during the year to encourage attention to this valuable indigenous crop. Propaganda work in this connection was carried out by both the Political and Agricultural Officers, the object being to ensure the preservation of existing Palms and to induce the farmers to plant additional trees. The more intelligent Chiefs, appreciating the necessity of this, made Rules providing that Palm Trees should only be cut down when necessary and that if a Palm Tree is cut down two seedlings should be planted for each adult specimen destroyed.

Coffee.

15. A bonus scheme was formulated during the year to encourage the cultivation of this crop and the Amanhin were asked to establish plots on their Stool Lands.

Kola.

16. This indigenous crop is of very considerable value to Ashanti and is of more importance than is generally realised. During the year under review planting of the White variety was recommended because the white nut realises higher prices than the red nut. It was difficult to arrive at a reliable estimate of the approximate quantity and value of the crop as available figures were for main trade routes only and these are not always reliable. The average value during the year was about £37 per ton and the approximate estimated total which left Ashanti was 6,000 tons : 2,983 tons of which were railed to the ports of Sekondi and Accra. The industry is entirely in the hands of the Africans.

Food Crop.

17. There was an appreciable improvement in the supply of food crops, and farm areas were extended considerably throughout localities within easy reach of roads and railways.

FORESTRY.

18. In July, 1923, the Headquarters of the Forestry Department was transferred from Kumasi to Accra, and Ashanti was created a Provincial Station. The Chiefs and others are gradually beginning to recognise the importance of Forest reservation and

progress was made towards the creation of Forest Reserves during the year. There were two Forest Reserves in Ashanti at the end of the year, viz:—Mankrang-Ofin and Formang-Su.

Mankrang-Ofin Reserve.

19. The area of this Reserve, which was estimated at 216 square miles, was reduced in September to its present size of about 65 square miles. Unfortunately the northern portion, which was extensively cultivated had to be abandoned on that account. This reduced area was demarcated during the period under review by a line $42\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and ten feet wide cut round it, the trees on the line blazed, dracæna cuttings planted at 100 feet apart, and numbered cairns erected at corners and at points where the lines crossed important paths: The settlement of the Chief's boundaries within this area remained to be settled at the end of the year.

Formang-Su Reserve.

20. The Rules for the creation of this Reserve were signed in June last, the area was again inspected and reported on, and the demarcation of the artificial boundaries commenced in February. At the end of the year this, with the exception of a short line consequent on the alteration of the original boundary, was completed. Approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of line was cut, cairns erected and dracæna cuttings planted.

Ejian Plantation.

21. The Teak Plantation three to five acres in area which was started in 1912 made satisfactory progress and again received attention, which it lacked for some time owing to the war and consequently lack of officers.

Kumasi Firewood Plantation.

22. A site was selected for this plantation to the south of the Agricultural Station. The land will be acquired in due course.

Agricultural and Forestry Training Centre.

23. The Training of Learners at Kumasi Agricultural Station is now a separate branch of the Department of Agricultural activities. The Station, owing to the number of experiments being carried out and variety of crops grown, presents unique facilities for the study of Agriculture and Forestry. Thirty-one students, twenty-nine Agricultural and two Forestry, were in residence during the year.

The Superintendent's bungalow, erected near the quarters, was completed at the end of the year.

Cadbury Hall.

24. Towards the end of the year a site was selected for and construction began on the "Cadbury Hall"—the generous gift of Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, Limited, of Bournville—for Agricultural education. When completed, the building will provide a Lecture Room, Recreation Room, Laboratory, Office and Stores which will allow class work and opportunities for study that are impossible under the existing inadequate conditions.

MINING INDUSTRY.

25. The amount of gold produced during the year from mines in Ashanti was 74,490.27 ounces, valued at £316,419 6s. 8d., as against 72,769.84 ounces valued at £309,126 19s. 5d. for the previous year, which showed an increase of 1,521 ounces and £7,293 in value. The figures for the year under review however record a decrease as compared with the 1921-22. Two mines only were producing, viz :—the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, and the Obuasi Mines (Obuom), whilst Mr. O. H. Reynard restarted dredging operations in the Offin River and extracted 700 ounces of gold.

The average amount of labour employed in the Mining Industry was as follows:—

	Surface	Underground	Total.
Europeans	... 53	... 22	... 75
Africans	... 1,925	... 983	... 2,908

These figures show a reduction over the figures for the previous year when the numbers were 81 Europeans and 3,233 Africans.

No Mining Licences were issued during the year, but three Licences to prospect were issued.

LEGISLATION.

26. Five Ordinances were enacted during the year. These were as follows:—

Ordinance No. 3 of 1923:—An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, which applied the Gold Coast Colony Ordinance No. 13 and No. 14 of 1923.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1923:—An Ordinance further to amend the Concessions Ordinance, 1903.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1923:—An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, which applied certain sections of the Gold Coast Ordinance No. 8 of 1923.

Ordinance No. 2 of 1924:—An Ordinance to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance No. 10 of 1902, which applied the Gold Coast Ordinance—The Sales by Auction Ordinance No. 29 of 1922 to Ashanti.

Three Rules under various Ordinances were made during the year, the most important being the application of the Prisons Regulations made under Section 9 of the Prisons Ordinance of the Gold Coast Colony—Cap. 34—to Ashanti.

Various Orders, Proclamations and Regulations were made during the year by the Governor, the Chief Commissioner and the Provincial Commissioners, the most important being that appointing certain officers of the Survey Department to discharge and exercise, within certain areas in Ashanti, any of the powers of an Assistant Commissioner of Police with respect to the infliction of punishment for offences against discipline under the Police Ordinance, 1922, as applied to Ashanti.

JUDICIAL.

27. The number of cases tried in the Courts of Ashanti during the year under review were as follows:—

		Civil.		Criminal
The Chief Commissioner	...	26	...	—
The Circuit Judge	...	29	...	42
The Police Magistrate, Kumasi	...	1,213	...	1,288
EASTERN PROVINCE.				
Provincial Commissioner	...	13	...	—
District Commissioner, Kumasi	...	202	...	600
District Commissioner, Obuasi, including the sub-station of Bekwai	...	602	...	1,221
District Commissioner, Juaso	...	39	...	227
District Commissioner, Ejura	...	127	...	227
WESTERN PROVINCE.				
Provincial Commissioner	...	24	...	6
District Commissioner, Sunyani	...	38	...	139
District Commissioner, Goaso	...	27	...	35
District Commissioner, Kintampo	...	11	...	105
District Commissioner, Wenchi	...	68	...	84
Total	...	2,419	...	3,913

These total figures show a reduction of 449 civil cases as compared with the civil cases for the previous year, but an increase of 110 criminal cases.

28. With regard to the cases in the respective Courts:—

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

The number of cases in this Court shows an increase of 16 as compared with the previous year, and an increase of two as compared with 1921-1922. These cases are principally appeals from Native Tribunals, Land and Boundary Disputes, and call for no particular comment.

CIRCUIT JUDGE'S COURT.

29. *Criminal Cases.*—Criminal cases showed a marked decrease as compared with previous years, only 42 being heard as against 81 in 1922-1923, and 65 in 1921-1922.

It should be noted however, that the services of the Judge were not available from June 24th to October 26th and although very few cases were standing over when the Judge resumed duty on the latter date, it is probable that some offenders were dealt with summarily who would otherwise have been committed for trial.

Civil Cases.—Besides the ordinary applications and Motions 29 civil cases were heard, inclusive of 3 appeals from Police Magistrate's and District Commissioners' Courts. These figures show a decrease of 27 cases from the previous year and a decrease of 9

for the year 1921-1922. This may be attributed to the absence of the Judge above referred to, as during that period no summonses were issued.

Estates.—Letters of Administration were granted in 7 cases.

Sittings.—The Court sat 71 days on criminal cases and 75 days on civil cases, and Assizes Courts were held at Obuasi (twice), Wenchi (twice), Ejura and Sunyani during the year.

POLICE MAGISTRATE'S COURT, KUMASI.

30. The Civil cases show a large increase of 258 as compared with the previous year and 191 as compared with the year 1921-1922.

The Criminal cases on the other hand show a large decrease of 169, as compared with the year 1922-1923, and 1,198 as compared with 1921-1922.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S COURTS.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

31. *Civil Cases.*—It is curious that whilst in the Police Magistrate's Court the number of civil cases increased, in the Commissioner's Courts the number shows a great decrease over both 1922-1923 and 1921-1922.

The criminal cases in these Courts also show a decrease of approximately 100 in each of the three years, the figures being 2,421, 2,301 and 2,214.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

32.—*Civil Cases.*—These cases show a slight increase over the figures for the previous year, but a decrease as compared with 1921-1922, while the criminal cases show a large decrease over 1922-1923 and were considerably less than half those for 1921-1922.

33. In all Courts (except the Chief Commissioner's) the civil cases were principally for the recovery of debts and tend to show the stringency of ready money. A very noticeable feature was the extraordinary way in which persons were able to find security for their engagements. There is little doubt that, owing to this, over-credits are often given to people of no financial standing and the increase in the number of *Ca Sacs* is a very real evil.

34. There were no serious outbreaks of crime during the year and the great majority of cases were for breaches of the sanitary laws and petty offences, such as assaults and thefts. Amongst the more serious crime, larceny and embezzlement were in the majority and almost fifty per cent. of the convicts in Kumasi Prisons were committed on those charges.

A small disturbance of a political nature, happily involving no loss of life or serious consequences, took place at Agona on 4th October. Another political disturbance of a much more serious nature took place on the 10th March between the Dadiasis and Kokofus. Three men were killed and several people were wounded. Sixty-five of the rioters were arrested and some were dealt with summarily, while others were committed to the Assizes.

35. Fees and Fines amounted to £7,221, as compared with £7,885 in the previous year and £9,513 the amount received in 1921-1922. This reduction is due to a fewer number of civil cases being heard and it also tends to show that the average amounts sued for must have been smaller than in former years.

CONCESSIONS.

36. No Certificates of Validity for Concessions were applied for during the year and none were cancelled.

POLICE.

37. The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on the 1st April, 1923, was 251, and at the end of the year 244. Members of the Force were stationed in Kumasi, Obuasi, Bekwai, Juaso, Ejura, Ejisu, Sunyani, Wenchi, Goaso and Kintampo.

The following table shows the statistics for the last three years.

	No. of offences reported to Police.		No. of Police pro- secutions.		No. of Convic- tions.
1921-22	2,343	...	3,705	...	3,383
1922-23	1,256	...	1,729	...	1,596
1923-24	3,064	...	2,562	...	2,077

At the first sight the figures for the year under review show a large increase over those for the previous year, but it is believed that the previous year's figures are those for Kumasi only and no comparison is therefore possible.

The work of the Police has been very satisfactory.

PRISONS.

38. There are six Prisons in Ashanti, viz.:—Kumasi, Obuasi, Juaso, Ejura, Kintampo, and Sunyani, also two "lock-ups" at Goaso and Wenchi. Convicted prisoners from these "lock-ups" are sent to Sunyani Prison. The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 1,095 as compared with 1,164 for the previous year, while the total number of debtor prisoners admitted during the year was 183 as compared with 134 for 1922-1923. Female prisoners are confined in Kumasi Prison only, but there is very little crime amongst women, last year the proportion of women convicts to men convicts was only .25 per cent.

39. Plans for building substantial blocks of cells and a new Female Prison for Kumasi Prison were approved during the year and this work was started in July last. At the end of the year the Female Prison and Matron's quarters were almost completed, and the outer extension walls were partly completed.

40. The Prison Farm at Kumasi was considerably extended and kept in good cultivation. The prisoners were employed on skilled and unskilled labour: the skilled labour consisting of Brick-making (all the bricks used in building the new extension of Kumasi Prison were made and burned by the prisoners), Building, Carpentry and Laundry work. The unskilled labour was employed on conservancy, clearing bush and farming. The receipts from Prison Industries averaged £70 per month. The discipline in all the Prisons was good, and the health of the prisoners was uniformly excellent.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

41. The Medical Staff consisted of an Acting Assistant Director of Medical Services, a Medical Officer, both stationed at Kumasi, a Medical Officer stationed at Kintampo and a Medical Officer at Sunyani. A Medical Officer, who is employed by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, but who by arrangement with the Government attends to all Government Officials at Obuasi. There were four deaths and five cases of invaliding of Europeans during the year under review—two of the deaths and two of the cases of invaliding being due to Blackwater Fever.

These figures compare with three deaths and twelve cases of invaliding for the previous year and three deaths and fifteen cases of invaliding for the year 1921-1922. The admissions to the European Hospital numbered 113, as compared with 194, during the previous year and 172 for 1921.

The admissions to the Native Hospital numbered 1,972, whilst 13,564 outpatients were treated during the year. These cases were of the usual kind, Venereal disease, Yaws, Pulmonary affections, Ulcers and Malaria being the most common.

SANITATION.

42. There was no epidemic throughout the year and the health of the inhabitants was generally good. The sanitation of the towns (except Kumasi) and villages in Ashanti was satisfactory.

With the opening up of the country by motor roads new villages adjacent to the roads have been built and the old villages distant from the roads have been deserted. This forward movement is particularly noticeable in the Western Province, and is an extremely satisfactory condition of affairs. It indicates greater trust by the Ashanti in the protection of life and property, which the Administration affords, and also indicates that the Ashanti is fully alive to the greater possibilities of disposing of his products to travellers and others. These new villages with the help of the Political and Sanitary Officers are all carefully laid out with fine broad streets, open spaces and sanitary utilities. A number of these villages have already become important trade centres and their upkeep not infrequently gets beyond the control of the village authorities. Assistance from the Government is then necessary and village overseers regularly visit these villages in order to give such assistance. Kumasi, Obuasi, Bekwai, Juaso, Kintampo and Sunyani are the principal towns and the sanitation of these towns is under European and African officers.

Sanitation of Kumasi.

43. The population at the last census (1921) was 23,694 and it was estimated that the population at the end of the year was approximately 27,000. The town limits are a radius of a mile and a half from the Fort and there are buildings scattered all over this area.

The usual Preventive Measures were taken against Insect Borne disease, including Malaria, Yellow Fever, Filariasis, Infectious and Epidemic Diseases.

There was unfortunately no improvement in the quality of the Kumasi Water Supply as it is badly polluted, B.Coli being present in 0.01 cc.

There were no cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Cholera, Enteric Fever, Small Pox or Plague.

44. The following Statistics show the number of vaccinations during the year, as compared with the two previous years:—

	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Total number vaccinated ...	14,126	37,900	15,555
Total number successful ...	9,175	18,134	7,608

45. The general sanitary measures included the clearance of bush, the disposal of household refuse—the non-combustible materials of which were used for filling up swamps and low lying areas,—drainage, of which 302 yards of concrete drains varying from 12 to 18 inches were constructed during the year, and the disposal of sewage in the various trenching grounds within the town area. The principal sanitary improvements included repairs of the Slaughter House, a new railing around the Cattle Kraal, and the erection of two new incinerators and two new latrines.

Public Cemeteries.

46. The new cemetery was kept in good condition while the other cemeteries in the town were maintained in fair condition only.

The number of registered burials were:—

Africans ...	...	...	395
Europeans ...	...	...	3
Total ...	...	...	<u>398</u>

Public Slaughter Houses.

47. The following number of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs were slaughtered, viz.:—

	1923-24.	1922-23.
Cattle ...	2,440	3,113
Sheep ...	1,972	1,707
Goats ...	2,392	2,400
Pigs ...	298	252

The fees collected amounted to £487 8s. 0d., as against £575 8s. 6d. for the previous year.

All carcases were regularly examined and diseased parts destroyed. Cattle were also examined when they arrived in Kumasi.

Regulations of Buildings and Town Planning.

48. All building permits with plans were submitted to the Medical Officer of Health for his approval and the buildings during construction were supervised by the European Building Inspector.

Thirty-seven permits to brickmakers were issued during the year.

49. Municipal Rent and Fees.

	1st April 1922 to 31st March, 1923.	1st April 1923 to 31st March, 1924.	Decrease for 1923-24.	Increase for 1923-24.
Rents from Town Plot ...	£6,199 ...	£5,649 ...	£549 ...	—
Rents from Zongo ...	1,310 ...	1,260 ...	49 ...	—
Rents from Market ...	263 ...	247 ...	16 ...	—
Rents from Slaughter House ...	575 ...	487 ...	88 ...	—

The decreases were due to non-payment of rents on new allotted plots, which lessees failed to build upon and the leases of which were cancelled.

50. The sanitation of Obuasi is controlled by a Sanitary Committee composed of Government and Mine Representatives. The Committee have the services of a European Village Overseer. The revenue of the Committee was £4,751, and the expenditure was £4,548. These figures compare with £5,264 and £4,668 respectively for the previous year.

The Wawassie Drainage Scheme which was commenced in June, 1922, was completed on 30th June, 1923, and the Wawassie extension commenced on 10th December, 1923, was completed on 22nd March, 1924, both amounting to 2,871 feet of concrete drains; an excellent piece of work.

51. The sanitation of Bekwai, which is developing rapidly as a trade centre, and of Juaso were reported as satisfactory.

Meteorological.

The rainfall recorded at Kumasi during the year was as follows:—

April	1923	...	...	9.125
May	"	...	...	4.175
June	"	...	...	7.750
July	"	...	...	9.410
August	"	...	...	.335
September	"	...	...	5.790
October	"	...	...	6.265
November	"	...	...	3.315
December	"	...	...	1.315
January	1924	...	...	.020
February	"	...	...	5.265
March	"	...	...	6.475
Total				59.240

The outstanding feature for the year was the exceptionally dry August, the rainfall being only .335. This rainfall compares with 65.25 inches during 1922-23 and 66.94 during 1921-22. It may be pointed out that the rainfall, though lower than in either of the two preceding years, exceeded the rainfalls of 1919 and 1920, which were 37 inches and 55.90 inches respectively.

The rainfall at other stations in Ashanti was:—

	1923-24.	1922-23,
Mprim ...	70.690 inc. ...	—
Sunyani ...	62.04 ..	69.83
Kintampo ...	71.54 ..	75.11

EDUCATION.

53. Education, as in former years, has been conducted by the Government and the Missionary Societies. Government Primary Schools are established in Kumasi—boys and girls—at Juaso and Sunyani, whilst there were 28, as compared with 25 in the previous year, Mission Primary Assisted Schools established in towns and villages throughout Ashanti, but principally in the Eastern Province. In addition there is a Government Junior Trade School at Mampong and also an Agricultural and Forestry Training Centre at Kumasi, to which reference is made under the Head of Agriculture.

There were also 163 Non-Assisted Missionary Primary Schools in numerous towns and villages, as compared with approximately 110 in the previous year.

The Wesleyan Mission during the year opened a Training College for the lay Agency and Ministry. This College was opened on 3rd March by the Governor in the presence of a large gathering of Europeans and Africans.

54. The number of children on the rolls of the Government Primary Schools at the end of the year was 648 boys and 188 girls, total 836, with an average attendance throughout the year of 760. The numbers for 1922-23 were 814 enrolled and 730 average attendance, and in 1921-22, 532 boys and girls were enrolled. All the Government Schools show satisfactory increases and it is owing to lack of accommodation and qualified teachers that the numbers of scholars were not considerably more.

55. The statistics of the Assisted Mission Schools were as follows, viz. :—

Schools.	Enrolment		Total	Average attendance
	Boys.	Girls.		
Scottish Mission ...	999	168	1,167	1,022
Wesleyan Mission ...	910	98	1,008	828
Roman Catholic Mission ...	744	20	764	666
Church of England Mission ...	281	—	281	246
A.M.E. Zion Mission...	85	—	85	60
	<u>3,019</u>	<u>286</u>	<u>3,305</u>	<u>2,822</u>

Here again these figures show a remarkable increase as compared with the figures for the previous year, which were, total enrolment 2,914 and average attendance 2,479. Again, there were no fewer than 3,781 children enrolled as pupils in Non-Assisted Schools. The writer regrets to be unable to compare these figures with the numbers for the previous year as these numbers were not attainable, but as no fewer than 53 additional Schools were opened during the year, there must have been a large increase in pupils over the previous year.

56. These figures prove conclusively that there is no lack of appreciation of the benefits of education in Ashanti. Chiefs readily offer to erect temporary school buildings and to contribute towards

the cost of the teacher's salary. It is worthy of note that the young Omanhene of Wenchi has obtained permission from the Queen Mother and the Councillors of the Stool to attend the Scottish Mission School at Mampong.

The education provided at these schools is of course elementary and those who aspire to a higher standard of education have to go either to Accra or Cape Coast. The Kumasi Council of Chiefs requested the Government to establish a Secondary School in Kumasi.

57. During the year the Provincial Inspector of Schools inspected 32 Mission Schools and 28 of these qualified for grants-in-aid. Three schools under the management of the Scottish Mission were added to the Assisted list.

58. *Female Education.*—The Government Girls' School was enlarged and the additional room provided accommodation for three Infant Classes. A further enlargement is necessary as four Standard Classes have still to be taught in one small room.

The Domestic Training Subjects at the Kumasi Government Girls' School received considerable attention and the premises used for cookery and laundry purposes were satisfactorily equipped. Plain sewing, domestic hygiene and child welfare were also taught. The girls should be able to benefit largely from the teaching of these subjects when they have such domestic conveniences to consider for themselves.

At 19 Assisted Mission Schools both boys and girls are admitted. The majority of the girls attending the schools were found chiefly in the Infants and Standards I.—III. The Government Girls' School at Kumasi is the only school exclusively for girls in Ashanti, and it is unable to meet the demand for female education. The enrolment at this school cannot be increased for lack of accommodation. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the establishment of boarding schools for girls might receive the early attention of the Missions. The proportion of boys to girls at the schools was approximately eight to one. This shows a large increase over that of the previous year.

59. The sum collected as School Fees was £1,059 9s. 0d., which was £136 15s. 1d. more than was collected during the previous year. This is a further indication of the desire for education on the part of the children and of the willingness of the parents to pay for the education of their children.

60. A site for a new Government Boys' School at Kumasi has been selected, but it has not yet been found possible to commence the school building.

61. It may be added that all the school children took considerable interest in the preparation of exhibits for the Gold Coast Section of the British Empire Exhibition and the Ashanti Schools were worthily represented.

62. As already stated the new Wesley College at Kumasi was opened by the Governor. In the course of His Excellency's speech the future of secondary education in the Colony, and the need for

such institutions for training qualified teachers, were touched upon. The building was erected at a cost of £25,000. It is substantial and is fire-proof throughout. The grounds of the College cover 104 acres. The opening of this College is another step in the march of progress and reflects the greatest credit upon the energy and foresight of the Mission Authorities.

Junior Trade School, Mampong.

63. The Junior Trade School, Mampong, has been gradually but firmly establishing itself in the course of the period under review. A second class of twenty pupils was admitted, making a total of forty pupils in residence. This number will be augmented by the classes of equal strength in each of the succeeding years. Two dormitories were constructed of burnt bricks. These are highly satisfactory and will be permanent buildings under the approved layout scheme.

The result of this Junior Trade School will be that the Ashanti will gradually displace the artisans, including motor drivers, who come from the coast towns and elsewhere and will assert his claim to a fair share in the sphere of technical employment in his own country.

Boy Scouts.

64. *Strength.*—The total number of Scouts in Ashanti at the end of the year was as follows, viz. :—

Kumasi Local Association.

	S.M.'s	Asst. S.M.'s	Tenfr.	Training.
Kumasi	... 6	... 5	100	94
Ashanti Akim	... —	... 5	28	102
Total	6	10	128	196

The Chief Scout's Commissioner inspected the troops in February and reported that an improvement was shown in several directions since his last visit.

A Training Camp was held at Kumawu in January last and was a great success.

A small room in the Fort has been set aside as a Headquarters Office.

Though the numbers were smaller than the previous year the spirit was much healthier and showed a beginning of real progress.

RELIGION.

65. The number of Missionary bodies remained the same as hitherto throughout the year, viz. :—

(a) *The Church of England—the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.*—The Benedictine Monks from Preshore Abbey, Worcester, who established, in March, 1923, a Branch House of the Community in Kumasi and took over the mission, continued to do good work.

(b) *The Ashanti Scottish Mission*.—The field is divided into four districts. Kumasi, the headquarters, remained without a resident European during the year and the work was supervised by the Senior African Minister in charge. The Minister in charge reported as follows:—

“We have succeeded in making our members to understand that Christianity does not loose them from their obligations to their Chiefs and relatives and that a good Christian is loyal to his King and country. As a result there are more Chiefs taking an interest in the work, helping us in building Churches, School Houses and supplying School children.

(c) *The Ashanti Wesleyan Mission*.—This Mission has three European Missionaries with their wives, also a large number of ordained Native Ministers, Village Catechists and Teachers.

(d) *The Roman Catholic Mission*.—The Staff comprised three European Priests and 86 African School Teachers.

(e) *The A.M.E. Zion Mission* has seven churches.

(f) *The Seventh Day Adventists*.—The Christian constituents of this Mission are divided into two classes—Church members and Sabbath school scholars. The first are fully established members, while the latter class are probationers.

66. The writer desires to record the excellent work which is being performed by the various Missionary bodies in Ashanti. The relations between the Christians and the non-Christian African generally have been very friendly. Only in one or two instances have there been disputes between the fetish people and the Christians and the disputes were easily settled. There is and always has been a tendency for the Christian, especially the newly converted, to ignore his allegiance to his Chief, but during the present year this particular phase caused no trouble. How far Christianity has penetrated the life of the people it is difficult to discover, but there is no doubt that its influence is for good law and order.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

67. The Provincial Commissioners report that the relationship between the Chiefs and the Government was all that could have been desired. The Chiefs have placed more and more confidence in the Government. The relations between the Head Chiefs and their leading subjects were not so good, particularly is this the case in the divisions which were reorganised after the last Ashanti rising. A number of such sub-chiefs claim that they are independent, but it is hoped when the new Native Jurisdiction Ordinance becomes law that these claims for independence will be gradually abandoned. Other causes for discontent have been land disputes and settlement of tribal boundaries. As the country is being opened up and developed land becomes more valuable and the tendency is that disputes as to land boundaries increase in number. There is a gradual and almost imperceptible change coming over Native Affairs in Ashanti. The Ashanti Chiefs have tried cases from time immemorial and with the power of life and death they demanded

and obtained from their people blind obedience. This blind obedience is no longer the order of the day. The "Youngmen" are no longer ignorant ; they do not fear torture or death at the hands of a more or less barbaric tyrant. That former fear has been displaced by a feeling of independence and safety which gives vent to criticism of their elders, and a desire when dissatisfied, to take the law into their own hands. At the root of most of these troubles lies "money"—either the Chief retains what he should not or attempts to levy what the "Youngmen" think an unfair tax. It is no new phenomenon. It is but the old cry of "No Taxation without Representation." If the Chief wants money then the people who are asked to contribute want to know for what purpose it is needed and how much is required. When they have paid they wish to be told that it has been used for the purpose for which it was ostensibly collected. Failure to satisfy them on these points have been the cause of minor disturbances.

This attitude is due to the spread of education in its broad sense. Education arises not only from the increased number of Schools and Churches but from the increased facilities of transport, and consequent freedom of movement which allows the intermixture of people and the exchanging of views.

Little by little the spread of real education must assuredly impregnate the whole of the race and it is but a matter of time when the ordinary Ashanti will overcome his prejudice against the election of a literate to the Stool, and then ruler and ruled will both have the same smattering of Scholarship, and a good deal of the suspicion that now lies between them will fade away and a happier relation will result.

Stool troubles will only disappear entirely with the Stools themselves. At this time in the evolution of the Ashanti people such a disappearance is neither to be wished nor hoped for. There can be no doubt of the material progress of the people. They have gained much wealth in recent years, principally by the sale of cocoa, and they have not hesitated to spend their wealth for the benefit of themselves, their Stools and their country.

They have erected large and imposing houses, purchased motor cars, added to the regalia of their Stools, constructed motor roads and built new sanitary and up-to-date villages adjacent to these roads.

68. Some of the Stools were not free from trouble during the year under review but, with the exception of the riot at Kokofu already referred to, there was nothing of particular interest.

69. There is no record of the number of cases tried in the Native Tribunals, but the following statistics show the number of

Appeals in each District from these tribunals to the Commissioners and how these appeals were disposed of:—

		Heard.		Upheld.		Reversed.
Kumasi	...	36	...	30	...	6
Obuasi	...	12	...	12	...	—
Juaso	...	2	...	2	...	—
Ejura	...	18	...	7	...	11
Sunyani	...	8	...	5	...	3
Goaso	...	8	...	8	...	—
Kintampo	...	5	...	4	...	1
Wenchi	...	8	...	8	...	—
		<hr/> 97		<hr/> 76		<hr/> 21

It is satisfactory to record that such a large proportional number of the decisions have been upheld. This serves to indicate that administration of Justice in these Native Tribunals is creditable to the Chiefs concerned.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

70. Captain Rattray, M.B.E., was in charge of this Department throughout the year, but no report was submitted to the writer upon the work accomplished by him.

PUBLIC WORKS.

71. The general working of the Department proceeded satisfactorily during the year. Labour was fairly plentiful and contractors carried out their work expeditiously. Building material was forthcoming, if not always from the Public Works Department Store, from local firms in Ashanti and the Gold Coast Colony.

72. £9,013 were expended on Public Works Annually Recurrent (excluding roads), and the Provincial Engineer reported that the whole of the painting programme was carried out and considerable repairs were executed on nearly every bungalow in Kumasi. The lighting of streets and public buildings was efficiently carried out and the plant and machinery were all maintained.

73. Under the Public Works Extraordinary Votes (excluding roads) £32,130 was expended during the year. The principal works being the erection of Water Tanks at bungalows in Kumasi, the new Residency and new offices for the Chief Commissioner.

74. Further, a considerable amount of structural work was done for other Departments, particularly the Post Office and the Gold Coast Section of the British Empire Exhibition.

75. *Kumasi Public Health Board.*—The proposal to establish a Public Health Board received the approval of the Secretary of State on the 3rd July, 1923.

The Board will have control of local sanitary matters in Kumasi and will be to all intents and purposes a modified Town Council. In anticipation of the Secretary of State's approval a sum of £12,000 was entered in the Estimates. The services of a Town Engineer not being available, the Provincial Engineer supervised and controlled the expenditure. Unfortunately the Assistant Town Engi-

neer and the Foreman of Works did not arrive in Kumasi until December and January respectively. However, £4,128 was expended on the Surface Water Drainage, Layout of the Town and Offices. The Old Railway Station Shelter and Booking Office were taken over and the necessary alterations made to convert these into temporary offices. Before the end of the year work on five bungalows for the staff had been started.

Water Supply Investigations.

76. The weir of the Ofin River at Miprim, the Western Subin and Denyami, together with rain gauges, were kept in order and the readings taken regularly.

Rest Houses.

77. The Rest Houses throughout Ashanti were well maintained by the Political Officers. They are as a rule good and comfortable buildings, but with the advent of the motor a number have been allowed to fall into disrepair as their maintenance was unjustifiable.

ROADS.

78. The mileage of the motor and motorable roads (exclusive of Town Roads) in Ashanti at the end of the year was 721½, of which the Public Works Department maintained 195 and the Political Officers 526½. These roads were not only maintained in good order and condition, but construction of additional mileage by the Political Officers made excellent progress.

During 1921-22 twenty-five miles additional of motorable roads were open for traffic, chiefly in the Kumasi District. During 1922-23, 57 miles of new motorable roads were under construction but were not entirely opened to traffic at the end of the year, and during the year under review 164½ miles were constructed and opened for traffic. Of this large mileage opened during the year 94½ miles were constructed in the Eastern Province and 70 in the Western Province. The writer motored over these newly constructed roads in the Western Province in a heavy Studebaker car during the month of May last and found them, for new roads, extraordinarily good. The following table shows how the mileage of motor and motorable roads in Ashanti has increased during the last three years, viz. :—

1921-22	...	...	500
1922-23	...	...	557
1923-24	...	...	721½

79. £20,321 was expended upon Road Maintenance during the year, whilst £14,636 was expended upon Road Construction. The following roads (exclusive of Town Roads) were maintained by the Public Works Department :—

A.1.	Kumasi to Prang Road	...	121 miles.
A.2.	Kumasi to Bompata Road	...	47 ..
A.3.	Ejura towards Nkoranza	...	17 ..
A.23.	Ntonsu to Effiduasie	...	10 ..
			<hr/> 195 miles. <hr/>

The Great North Road (A.1) from Kumasi to Ejura is still the finest road in the Gold Coast and certainly must be one of the finest roads in West Africa. The road was maintained at its usual high standard but the heavy lorries, which have practically replaced the light Fords, entailed considerable repairs to the timber decking of the bridges.

Corrugations unfortunately appeared on certain stretches during the height of the Cocoa Season. Several portions of the road were widened and the scarps at Mampong and Ejura were kept continually rolled and had good surfaces. The portion, Ejura to Prang (River Pru) was considerably improved. The permanent bridge, a very substantial structure, across the Pru at Prang, was completed and the reconstruction of the bridge across the Afram was started during the year.

Road A.2. Kumasi-Bompata Road—47 Miles.

This road has been well maintained but the timber structures were a continual source of trouble. Heavy rains swept away four large bridges entirely, but these were replaced and the road kept open with temporary bridges.

Road A.3. Ejura towards Nkoranza.

(A Political road but maintained by the Public Works Department), 17 miles.

The road was kept passable and the bridges in fair repair. It was, as in former years, difficult to obtain labour to work on the road owing to the scarcity of villages and the consequent lack of foodstuffs.

Road A23. Ntonsu to Effiduasi—10 Miles.

This road was well maintained.

80. TOWN ROADS.—The Town Roads of Kumasi, which have been tarretted, have been well maintained notwithstanding the increasing heavy motor traffic, considerable stretches were re-gravelled and the main roads leading out of the town were repaired to the Town Boundaries.

Roads constructed and maintained by Political Officers.

81. The Public Works Department constructed seven bridges and seventy-one culverts on these roads. It should be realised that almost all the work in connection with the construction of the roads (except the concrete bridges and culverts) was done by the Chiefs and people under the direction of Political Officers. The Chiefs feel that without such roads they are not marching with the extraordinary advance of progress which Ashanti has made in recent years. They have also a financial interest in constructing motor roads, because as soon as motor cars penetrate to the out-lying towns and villages an immediate reduction in the cost of transport is assured and therefore a higher price is paid for their produce.

The Commissioner of the Western Province writes:—"The trouble in this Province is not to get the people to construct motor roads, but to hold them back from construction on their own; on lines which are badly graded and require too much earth work and bridging." It is essential that a proper survey of the roads should be made, before construction work begins, otherwise without a survey all the labour expended might be found to have been of no avail. The enthusiasm the Chiefs and people display for developing their own country reflects the greatest credit upon them.

82. The cost of maintenance not only of the roads already constructed but those which must be constructed within the next five years in order to develop the country is and will be a very serious drain on the resources of the finances of the Colony. The Provincial Engineer writes:—

"I would draw attention to the increasing heavy motor traffic on all roads. The number of the vehicles is increasing, but what is more marked is the weight of the lorries as compared with two years ago. Then the majority of the cars using the roads were "Fords," now the percentage of "Fords" is not more than 5 per cent., the remainder being composed of Reos, Stewarts and similar cars. The wear and tear is decidedly greater and the amounts granted for maintenance have not increased."

One of the most lucrative trades to-day in Ashanti is that of motor hiring. An increasing number of vehicles is being put on the roads and competition is very keen, principally amongst the Syrian community with American built lorries.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

83. The Government fleet of vehicles at Kumasi on the 1st April, 1923, was, one Buick touring car and five lorries, the latter consisting of two fifteen cwt. Cubitts and three seven cwt. Fords. This number being the same number as was maintained during the previous year. The Department, which is run on commercial lines as far as possible shows a net loss of £115.

The following table shows the tonnage and number of loads carried during the year:—

Officers' loads	...	...	10,319
Government loads	...	...	6,373
Total loads conveyed	...	...	16,692
Weight of Officers' loads	...	...	265 tons.
Weight of Government loads...	...	...	301 ..
Total weight conveyed	...	...	566 tons.

The total mileage covered by the Fleet during the year was 54,638.

It is impossible to compare accurately these statistics with the statistics for the previous years, but the following figures for 1922-23 give a slight indication.

Passengers	...	...	1,220
Loads	...	...	26,536

The tonnage of the loads and the mileage are not available. Vehicles had to be hired from contractors during the year, as in previous years, and £12,181 was paid for this service. In addition to maintaining and running its own fleet, the Department was responsible for the maintenance of the Post Office mail van and the lorries used by the Public Works Department in connection with the construction and maintenance of roads.

RAILWAYS.

84. The Railway between Accra and Kumasi was completed and handed over to Open Lines on the 3rd September, and so no accurate comparison with Railway traffic during the year under review with previous years can be given. However, the inward traffic to all Stations in Ashanti was 33,771 tons as against 37,921 tons for the previous year. These goods for the year under review consisted principally of building materials, machinery, cotton goods, and tinned provisions, whereas for the previous year considerable quantities of railway constructional material were conveyed.

The outward goods traffic from all Stations in Ashanti was 68,244 tons as compared with 54,407 tons in the previous year. This traffic principally consisted of cocoa 61,176 tons and kola 2,983 tons. The export of cocoa alone from Ashanti exceeded the total exports for 1922-23 by 6,769 tons, a truly marvellous increase. The Railway receipts were as follows, viz. :—

For goods exported from Ashanti	...	£256,029
For goods imported into Ashanti	...	129,444
For Coaching traffic	...	52,076
		<hr/>
		£437,549

No comparison can be made with the figures for the previous years for the reason already stated.

The Railway service during the year was maintained satisfactorily.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

85. No separate statistics for Ashanti are available.

Postal.

With the opening of the Accra-Kumasi Railway in September a Travelling Post Office, serving all Post Offices and agencies *en route*, was instituted on the daily passenger trains in both directions. This resulted in a large increase of postal matter being dealt with at Kumasi as the latter, on account of the two railway lines, became the daily postal clearing office between the Eastern and Western Provinces of the Gold Coast Colony.

Parcels, posted and delivered, were about the same as the previous year, with the exception of parcels received from Nigeria for delivery in Ashanti. In this instance there was a 100 per cent. increase. The majority of these parcels contained Adire cloths from Nigeria..

Telegraphs.

The number of telegrams forwarded and received was practically the same as in the previous year. There was, however, an increase during the three busy cocoa season months of December, January and February.

The towns of Bompata, Prah River, Kwahu Prasu and Bomfa were connected by telegraph during the year.

Telegrams dealt with in Kumasi Office average 9,000 monthly.

Telephones.

A trunk telephone line between Kumasi and intermediate stations to Accra was opened to the public in August. A telephone exchange with local installations throughout the town was opened in Kumasi on the 5th March last with :—

15 official subscribers.
17 private ,,
<hr/>
32
<hr/>

The number of subscribers steadily increased.

General.

86. All services were satisfactorily maintained during the year. On account of railway and telegraphic extensions considerable speeding up in delivery of mails and telegrams between Ashanti and various parts of the Colony was made. New Post Offices were built at Sunyani and Juaso and a new Type 1 office was being erected at Bekwai at the close of the year.

Numerous alterations and extensions to the Kumasi Post Office were carried out to cope with the increased services.

A Telegraph Engineer and Telegraph Inspector were permanently stationed in Kumasi to supervise new construction and maintenance of the existing lines. A Telephone Exchange Superintendent was also stationed at Kumasi during the last two months of the year in order to open and supervise the working of the new Telephone Exchange.

A departmental post office transacting all branches of Post Office business, including trunk telephone work was opened at Juaso, and the telegraph postal agency there was closed.

Telegraph postal agencies were opened at: Bompata, Prah River, Kwahu Prahsu and Bomfa.

The Postal Agency at Tekiman was closed on the 3rd November. There were in Ashanti at the end of the year under review

8 Post and Telegraph Offices.
13 Telegraph Postal Agencies.
5 Non Telegraph Postal Agencies.

Total 26

SURVEYS.

87. During the twelve months under review an area of 5,000 square miles was topographically surveyed, and the standard sheets of Obuasi, Bompata, Mampong and Sekodumasi were handed to the Survey Headquarters at Accra for reproduction.

The area covered by these sheets is outlined in red on the attached diagram.

Outline in green is the area topographically surveyed during the previous twelve months, and outlined in blue is the present programme for the next twelve months. Work has already commenced on the Sunyani and Kukuom (previously called Adeambra) sheets.

The Kumasi, Mampong, Bompata and Fumso sheets of the one inch (1:62,500) Topographical Map, have been published and are now on sale.

The Obuasi standard sheet is being published in the United Kingdom on the scale of 1:125,000 (approximately two miles to one inch) and should be ready in the near future.

A Topographical Map on a scale of 1:250,000 was being prepared for publication in the United Kingdom at the end of the year. This sheet will cover an area seventy miles square, and will include Obuasi, Mampong, Potsikrom and Juaso.

The Director, Topographical Branch, writes:—

"As the survey progresses northwards the open nature of the country will allow of more rapid work and reduced cost. In the "orchard" country the slow and costly partial cutting, necessary in the forest belt, can be dispensed with. Nowhere in Ashanti, however, does visibility allow of plane—table survey—the most rapid of topographical methods—being carried out. Apart from more rapid work and reduced cost, the open country is a far better training ground for the African surveyors, whose progress and future ability to undertake independent work is the main factor in the economic survey of the Gold Coast."

"The interest taken by the Political Officers, and the friendly attitude on the part of the inhabitants of Ashanti, have greatly facilitated the work of the surveyors."

88. The Provincial Surveyor also accomplished a good year's work. No fewer than twenty surveys of townships, boundary disputes and roads were made, whilst satisfactory progress was also made on the 1:1250 survey of Kumasi township.

GENERAL.

89. The year under review has been one of steady progress, which has been built on a solid foundation of almost 25 years work by able administrators such as Sir Francis Fuller, K.B.E., C.M.G., and his conscientious and able lieutenants. The results of such good work have been shown by the greater trust and confidence which the Ashanti has placed in the Government. The Political Officers were consequently able to carry out good work such as the settlement of tribal boundaries, construction of many miles of motor roads, and laying out of villages. The day is not far distant when every important town and village in Ashanti will be linked up with Kumasi with good motor roads.

90. Investigations were made during the year at Chebbi, near Nsuta as to its suitability for a site for a Sanatorium for the Gold Coast in accordance with the Secretary of State's suggestion. The situation is ideal and water supply appears to be good and plentiful. It is 1,200 feet above sea level and is within two hours by motor from Kumasi, the road being good except for the last three miles.

91. During the latter part of the year Sir S. D'Aguilar Crookshank, K.C.M.G., visited Ashanti to report on the Public Works Department. He had issued a valuable report which should be of great assistance and guidance not only to the officers of that Department but to all the Officers in Ashanti.

92. Mr. C. H. Harper, C.M.G., O.B.E., Chief Commissioner, retired on 22nd July, and the writer was promoted as from that date. The writer paid a flying visit to Kumasi in December, but special duties in Accra prevented him assuming office during the year under review.

Mr. L. H. Wheatley, Provincial Commissioner, retired on pension on the 3rd January, 1924, and Lieut.Col. C. E. D. O. Rew, O.B.E., Deputy Chief Commissioner retired, on the 15th March, 1924.

93. Colonel Rew acted as Chief Commissioner from 27th April, 1923, to 2nd November, 1923, and Captain J. A. Ballantine from 23rd November, 1923, to the end of the year.

There were also numerous changes among the Political Staff in the two Provinces and the Districts.

JOHN MAXWELL,

Chief Commissioner, 'Ashanti.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.							
No.	Colony, etc.						Year.
1225	Barbados ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1228	Hongkong ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report ..	..	..	..	..	..	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1232	Leeward Islands ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1234	Mauritius ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1235	Straits Settlements ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1236	Seychelles ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1238	Brunei ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1240	St. Lucia ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1241	Bahamas ..	..	..	..	..	..	1924
1242	Falkland Islands ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1243	Ceylon ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1244	Basutoland ..	..	..	..	..	..	1924
1245	Nigeria ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda ..	..	..	..	..	..	1923
1248	Weihaiwei ..	..	..	..	..	..	1924
1249	Gambia ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1250	State of Brunei ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
1251	St. Helena ..	..	..	..	..	..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.				Subject.
No.	Colony, etc.			
83	Southern Nigeria ..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies ..	..	..	Preservation of Ancient Monu- ments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria ..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria ..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon ..	..	..	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute ..	..	..	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria ..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent ..	..	..	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate ..	..	..	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protec- torate.
92	Colonies—General ..	..	..	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Wei-hai-wei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	State of Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	"

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1253.

CYPRUS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923, see No. 1206.)



LONDON :

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THE Commission was appointed "to visit Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Tanganyika Territory, Uganda, and Kenya with a view to obtaining as much information as possible in the time available on all subjects covered by the terms of reference to the East Africa Committee, and to report to the Secretary of State on any facts which they may consider have a bearing upon the above matters."

The terms of reference to the East Africa Committee were :—

"To consider and report :

- (a) on the measures to be taken to accelerate the general economic development of the British East African Dependencies and the means of securing closer co-ordination of policy on such important matters as transportation, cotton-growing, and the control of human, animal, and plant diseases ;
- (b) on the steps necessary to ameliorate the social condition of the natives of East Africa, including improvement of health and economical development ;
- (c) on the economic relation between natives and non-natives with special reference to labour contracts, care of labourers, certificates of identification, employment of women and children ;
- (d) on the taxation of natives and the provision for services directed to their moral and material improvement."

The fundamental importance of this Report to all interested in Imperial relationships has been recognised by all sections of the Press. *Nature* describes it as "a valuable report." The *Economist* refers to it as "the exceedingly interesting report of the East Africa Commission." The *Times* says it is "a much needed survey of British East Africa as a whole"; and the *New Statesman*, "a document which ought to have a wide circulation."

May be obtained from the addresses shown on the attached cover.

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CYPRUS.

**ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR
1924.**

I.—Introduction.**GEOGRAPHICAL.**

The Island of Cyprus, situated in the eastern Mediterranean between $34^{\circ} 33'$ and $35^{\circ} 41'$ N. latitude and between $32^{\circ} 20'$ and $34^{\circ} 35'$ E. longitude, is about 140 miles in greatest length from east to west, and about 40 miles in greatest breadth from north to south. A narrow range of limestone mountains, with an average height of 2,000 ft., extends along the northern coast, and an extensive group of mountains, culminating in Mount Troödos, 6,406 ft. above the sea, fills the south-western part of the Island. Between these ranges lies the fertile Messaoria plain.

Cyprus is most easily reached via Port Said, from which it is distant at the nearest point about 240 miles. The crossing from Larnaca on the south-east coast to Beirut in Syria is accomplished in a night, and the strait between the north coast and the southern shores of Asia Minor is at Kyrenia 45 miles wide.

HISTORICAL.

The early history of Cyprus is obscure. It was a centre of Ægean civilization two thousand years before the Christian era, and Greek and Phœnician colonies were established there at a very early date. In the sixth century B.C. the Island was conquered by Egypt, and fifty years later was absorbed in the Persian Empire. The famous Evagoras, a native king, succeeded in the fifth century B.C. in raising Cyprus to a position of independence, but on his death it again fell to the power of Persia, and in due course to Alexander the Great. At the division of Alexander's empire, Cyprus passed to Egypt, until in 58 B.C. it became a Roman province, falling, on the division of the Roman Empire, under the Byzantine emperor.

In A.D. 1184 the Governor of Cyprus, Isaac Comnenus, revolted, and maintained his independence until, in 1191, Richard Cœur de Lion of England, on his way to the Crusades, landed and in a whirlwind campaign of a few weeks conquered the Island. Richard sold it to Guy de Lusignan, the "King of Jerusalem," and the Lusignan dynasty ruled the Island until

A.D. 1489, although from 1373 to 1464 the Genoese Republic exercised a suzerainty over a part of the kingdom. In 1489 Cyprus fell to the Republic of Venice, who held it until it was wrested from them by the Turks in 1571, in the sultanate of Selim II.

In 1878 the Island passed under the administration of Great Britain, and, on the outbreak of war with Turkey in 1914, was annexed to the British Crown by Order in Council of 5th November, 1914. The annexation has been formally recognised by Turkey under the Treaty of Lausanne, which was ratified on the 6th August, 1924.

II.—Climatic and Meteorological Conditions.

The climate of Cyprus is, generally speaking, temperate and healthy, though the excessive heat of the plains during the summer is trying to Europeans. The heat is, however, dry, except on the coast, while the winters are cold and invigorating. There are numerous resorts in the hills at altitudes varying from 6,000 to 2,000 ft., such as Mount Troōdos or Kantara, where the summer can be passed in healthy surroundings and without discomfort or inconvenience.

The year 1924 was free from any remarkable climatic feature, but the summer began early and was long and dry. The spring rains failed entirely over the greater part of the Island, and no rain of any account fell until the middle of October, when the weather broke somewhat earlier than is the general rule. A certain shortage of water, both for drinking and for irrigation, was in consequence observed in some districts. The actual rainfall was above the average, but as a relatively large proportion of it occurred towards the end of the year the crops suffered and the cereal harvest was poor.

The absolute mean temperature for the year at Nicosia was 66°·60 F., as against 67° F. for 1923, and the average of 65°·80 F. for the last fifteen years. The mean maximum temperature during the year was 77°·80 F., and the mean minimum temperature was 55°·40 F. The highest shade temperature recorded was 107° F., and the lowest 30° F., showing a range of 77° F., the maximum and minimum recorded during the previous fifteen years being 110° F. and 26° F. respectively.

The rainfall for the last ten years has averaged 19·04 inches per annum; in 1924 the mean for the whole Island was 21·47 inches, as against 18·57 inches in 1923. The highest rainfall during the year was recorded at Halevga in the Kyrenia range of mountains, namely 51·41 inches, and the heaviest fall on any one day was also recorded at Halevga, where 6·00 inches of rain fell on the 7th January. The smallest rainfall recorded was at Strongylo in the Famagusta district, where 12·31 inches only fell during the year.

Several earthquake shocks, the majority of a slight character, were felt at Nicosia and at Limassol, more particularly on the 18th February, and the 9th June. The only other meteorological phenomenon of an exceptional nature was the total eclipse of the moon clearly visible throughout Cyprus on the 14th August.

III.—General Observations.

Cyprus is first and foremost a country of agriculturists, or peasant farmers, and, as such, its prosperity depends almost entirely on its cereal and other crops and on the market prices prevailing for its products. The success or failure of the harvest and the external demand for local commodities may, therefore, fairly be taken as the criterion of the well-being of the Island and of its inhabitants.

The year 1924 is noteworthy as marking a general improvement in trade conditions and in the Island's prosperity after the depression of the post-war period. For the first year since 1914 the exports exceeded the imports by £27,983, while the total value of the exports was £1,271,399 and of the imports £1,243,356 as compared with £893,733 and £1,072,573 respectively in 1923. This very considerable improvement in the export trade is accounted for by the demand for livestock abroad, principally in Greece, and by the good prices obtained for carobs, of which there was a large crop. In addition there was a great increase in the output and export of minerals, particularly iron pyrites. The increased purchasing power of the population is indicated by the increase of the value of the imports, but there is no reason to apprehend that over-importation has taken place as in the years immediately following on the cessation of the war.

The cereal harvest of 1924 was not good. The barley yield in particular was poor, and other crops generally were below the average. No real hardship was experienced, however, through shortage of foodstuffs on account of the large stocks of flour imported from abroad. The cost of fodder rose sharply, but this was in some degree alleviated by the high prices obtained for animals sold for shipment outside the Island.

The carob crop was most satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality and excellent prices were obtained without difficulty. The production of raisins was also good, and a brisk demand obtained at enhanced prices. An encouraging revival in the wines and spirits trade is to be recorded. The market was firm, prices improved, and prospects generally in this industry are appreciably brighter than they have been for some time. The yield of silk cocoons again showed an increase and satisfactory prices were readily obtained for the entire crop. The cotton crop was disappointing. A larger area was put under cultivation for cotton but the ravages of diseases seriously affected the production, as explained in a subsequent chapter of this report.

The orange crop was excellent, and very good prices were forthcoming. Pomegranates also did well, and the year was in general favourable for fruit and vegetables, the production of which is steadily increasing. In brief, the produce of 1924, with the exception of cereals, was generally speaking well above the average and was all disposed of easily and profitably.

The year afforded considerable relief to the farmer to whose position reference has been made in the reports for the last two years. The value of land tended to appreciate, and better prices were realised even at forced sales of agricultural property in satisfaction of debts. Such forced sales continued and showed in fact an increase in number. They were, however, almost without exception in respect of cases of debts long outstanding and had been in many instances held over from the preceding year through pressure of business. The process of the clearing off of old debts advanced rapidly, a circumstance which is reflected in the reduction of the number of mortgages and other attachments for debt registered in the Land Registry Department. Increasing advantage was taken by farmers of the relief obtainable through the provisions of the Insolvent Farmers Law. The benefits of the co-operative system were more widely understood, and greater care was exercised in the contraction of loans, and the settlement of debts. Progress in this direction is necessarily slow and principles of thrift difficult to inculcate, but the signs of the times are healthy and encouraging. It would appear that the results of education and foreign experience are making themselves felt, and that the coming generations will be better equipped mentally and morally to face life than those which having bravely survived are now passing away. Time may even show the year 1924 to have been the threshold of a new order of things in the life of Cyprus.

Negotiations for the establishment of an Agricultural Bank, one of the principal functions of which will be to finance co-operative credit societies and to market their produce, took a concrete shape towards the close of the year. An Agricultural Bank, working under the auspices of and in close collaboration with the Imperial Ottoman Bank will, it is anticipated, definitely commence operations during 1925. The capital, which will thus become available for advances to agriculturists on reasonable terms, should further serve to strengthen the position of those farmers who are not over-encumbered with debt and are fighting for their economic freedom.

Great activity was shown during the year in the Island's mineral resources, and the iron pyrites mine at Skouriotissa more than doubled its output. In addition this Company have taken out a lease for another concession on an adjacent area and carried out considerable works of preliminary development during the year. The number of prospecting permits granted showed no diminution, and negotiations were in progress in regard to the

conclusion of further mining leases of an important nature. The foreign capital introduced in this manner into the Island, and the employment afforded by mining companies to many thousands of workpeople, the majority of whom come from the poorest districts, have been of great material value to Cyprus during the times of depression in trade and agriculture.

As is explained in another chapter the administration was again restricted on the constructive side by depleted revenues. No additional taxation was, however, imposed and the revival in trade, coupled with the exercise of strict economy on expenditure, enabled an estimated deficiency in the Budget of £43,000 to be converted into an excess of approximately £15,000 on the year's working. New undertakings were feasible only to a very limited degree, while the expenditure on the maintenance of roads, and of public works and buildings, was very considerably curtailed. It was nevertheless found possible to conduct a special campaign against malarial fever, and to take energetic measures for the encouragement of agricultural industries, particularly flax, cotton, wines, silk, and leather. Cyprus participated to the best of her resources in the British Empire Exhibition and an account of what has been done in this connection is given in another chapter of this report.

The cost of living remained about the same as in 1923, subject to market fluctuations in the price of certain staple foodstuffs, and although the price of bread rose somewhat during the latter months of the year in consequence of the short wheat harvest, imported stocks of flour sufficed to obviate any distress. The standard of comfort was satisfactorily maintained in the towns and in the villages.

Law and order was as usual well maintained. A very satisfactory decrease in cases of serious crime was observed during the year and a reduction of nearly 800 cases, or approximately 20 per cent., was recorded under this head as compared with 1923. The activity of the newly-established Rural Police Force has been a marked feature and to their zeal and efficiency is attributable the improvement in the detection and prosecution of minor offences, principally cases of trespass and damage to cultivated lands by shepherds and the like, who, prior to the passing of the Rural Police Law in 1923, were a constant source of damage to agriculture, and were practically immune from detection.

The importation of motor cars continued as in the previous year. The number of motor cars and vehicles now in use on the roads of Cyprus is over 500 ; they are mostly of American manufacture. Motor cars for passenger hire are readily obtainable throughout the Colony for any time and distance at the rate of 6d. a mile. A number of motor tractors for agricultural purposes were again imported, and the trend of modernisation in this and in other directions recorded a steady progress.

A feature of the year was the large issue of seed corn on loan to farmers through the medium of the Public Works Loan Fund. The poor cereal harvest and the difficulty in obtaining credit had seriously affected the small cultivator, who was faced at sowing time with the prospect of being obliged to leave the greater portion of his lands fallow on account of the lack of seed or of the means to purchase seed. It has been the regular practice each year for the Loan Commissioners to make advances of seed obtained from the Government tithes to the most necessitous villages against repayment in kind with interest at the conclusion of the harvest; recently, however, the tendency has been to restrict such issues so far as practicable with the object of encouraging thrift. As in the autumn of 1924 there was a marked shortage of seed in many districts, the danger of large areas of land remaining uncultivated was very real. It had been hoped that by this time the Agricultural Bank of Cyprus would have been ready to commence operations, but its incorporation having been unavoidably delayed the need of more liberal assistance on the part of the Loan Commissioners made itself imperative. Large issues of seed corn were accordingly effected, and all cases of genuine hardship were satisfied, with the result that the area put under the cultivation of cereals finally exceeded that of the years immediately preceding. The total value of the issues in 1924 amounted to £20,897, as against £2,888 in 1923. In comparing these figures, however, due allowance must be made for the enhanced prices for grain prevailing at the end of 1924.

The Loan Commissioners continued also to issue loans to public bodies and co-operative credit societies. Over £2,000 was loaned to school authorities, both Moslem and Greek-Christian, for the construction or improvement of twenty-nine school buildings. Loans totalling £6,700 and varying in amount from £300 to £1,000 were issued to eleven co-operative credit societies for the relief of agriculturists. These loans are normally repayable in five or ten annual instalments, dependent on the capital amount, with interest ordinarily at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Further provision has been made in the estimates of expenditure for 1925 for a loan of £10,000 from general revenue for the purpose of issue to municipal and village authorities for works of improvement.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The year 1924 was marked by the opening on St. George's Day, the 23rd of April, in Wembley Park, London, of the British Empire Exhibition. Cyprus participated in the Exhibition, sharing with Palestine a building of appropriate Byzantine design, situated, in an avenue in the Park known as Union Approach, between the pavilions of South Africa and Nigeria.

The Cyprus section of the building consisted of a room measuring 56 ft. by 20 ft., with three doors leading into the open and communicating through a central arch with the Palestine room. Pointed arches composed of expanding metal and plaster coloured in imitation of stone work were the principal architectural features of the interior of the pavilion. The floor was cemented and covered with green oil cloth.

Within the limited space available a representative collection of samples of the produce of the Island was tastefully displayed. Specimens of the native cereals, timber, minerals, textiles, wine, fruit and oil were set out on stalls and in show cases ; and the walls of the room were hung with carpets, tapestries, embroideries and skins interspersed with pictures, maps and photographs of some of the most notable local centres of archæological, historical and general interest. The carpets and embroideries made a particularly fine splash of colour on the white walls of the room, and the photographs of mountain scenery near the summer resorts of Troödos and Platres were much admired. Pottery, ancient and modern, minor statuary and diverse *objets d'art* of Cypriot origin assisted the decorative scheme. Mr. W. Bevan, the late Director of Agriculture in Cyprus, was appointed official representative of the Colony at the Exhibition, with Mr. P. M. Symeonides, Inspector of Agriculture, as his assistant. The services of English selling agents were engaged.

Seventy private firms and individuals exhibited on their own responsibility, and, in addition to sending certain consignments in bulk of goods for sale, the Government contributed upwards of fifty separate exhibits. Twenty-two private exhibitors rented areas of floor and wall space ranging in measurement from 1 sq. ft. to 297 sq. ft. An area of the latter dimension was rented by the Cyprus Asbestos Company, whose exhibits were extended along the length of one wall of the room and attracted much attention.

The policy adopted in managing the pavilion was to make known the resources and products of the Island by means of sale of popular commodities across the counter to the general public, to arouse the interest of business men in the potential riches and commercial possibilities of the Island, and, where practicable, to book orders with wholesale firms.

The pavilion was thronged daily with visitors of all types and classes from soon after 10 a.m. when the Exhibition opened until the closing hour, 8 p.m. Salesmen were employed to dispose of such goods as the celebrated Lefkara lace, oranges, sponges, cigarettes, lokoumi (Turkish delight) and other sweet-meats, silk and cotton fabrics, and furs and skins, all of which were much sought after. Sales proceeded briskly from the outset and there can be no doubt that there would have been a very handsome turnover of all the articles mentioned if supplies from Cyprus could have kept pace with the demand. Unfortunately it had not been possible to anticipate demands in detail and

stocks of most of the goods asked for were found to be insufficient soon after the Exhibition opened. The limited duration of the Exhibition and the fact that many goods were not procurable at short notice or in the summer season impeded the fulfilment of orders for further supplies.

Many enquiries were received from the principals and representatives of various English, and some foreign, firms ; and it is to be hoped that before long definite business proposals will result. It should be realised, however, that the present methods of preparation and manufacture of Cypriot commodities will have to undergo some radical changes and many minor adaptations to meet the requirements of English and European consumers if those producers in Cyprus who so far have only traded locally wish to secure permanent markets outside the Levant. Revision on up-to-date principles of local business procedure would also in some cases be necessary.

Enquiries made by members of the general public showed that in England ignorance of the past and present history of Cyprus is lamentably profound and widespread. Seemingly educated persons were to be found who could not place the Island, within a thousand miles, on a map of the world, and some even suggested that the inhabitants might be black and savage. Every endeavour was made to correct elementary misapprehensions of this nature and to give adequate enlightenment to curiosity of a more advanced standard. Opportunities frequently occurred to advertise the varied attractions which Cyprus undoubtedly offers to travellers and tourists ; and a brief survey of the history and development of the Island was compiled and suitably illustrated for the purpose and put on sale in the pavilion. Some particularly interesting requests for information came from a number of retired British civil servants and others with small fixed incomes who contemplate settling abroad in a country where the cost of living is low, the climate healthy, and where there is scope for gaining a modest livelihood by means of fruit-growing or some kind of small-scale farming. There is little doubt that Cyprus can profitably accommodate prospective settlers of this standing, provided they are prepared to be content with but slight return for any capital expended in the first years of settlement.

It is not possible at this date to assess at all accurately the benefits which will accrue to Cyprus from participation at Wembley. The Exhibition has yet another season to run, and what is most important at the present juncture is that the defects noticed in 1924 should be remedied in 1925.

Apart from the question of arranging to send larger supplies of goods for sale it will certainly be necessary to acquire more space for the display of exhibits and the accommodation of visitors. In this connection it is satisfactory to learn that the pavilion which was occupied by Fiji in 1924 has now been

secured for Cyprus. It is understood that Palestine will occupy the former Cyprus room. The new Cyprus pavilion is a wholly detached building situated near the Home Government pavilion between the Exhibition Station and the Amusements Park. Appropriate architectural alterations are to be made to the existing structure and several extensions and improvements are contemplated.

POPULATION.

The population of Cyprus, as shown in the census return taken in 1921, was 310,709, and the estimated population at the end of the year 1924 was about 326,000. Nationality in the Near East is somewhat difficult of definition and is inseparably interlinked with religion. Cyprus is a land of many creeds, and in differentiating socially between the varied elements of the population it is easiest to follow these natural lines. The bulk of the inhabitants of the Island are of the Orthodox Greek-Christian faith and belong to the Autocephalous Church of Cyprus. Of the remainder, some 65,000, or approximately one-fifth of the total population, are Mohammedans. There is also an Armenian community, which tends steadily to increase, and a distinct though not numerous Latin colony.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Except for the endemic prevalence of malarial fever the climate of Cyprus is healthy and temperate, and with proper precautions there should be no difficulty in enjoying complete immunity from this disease. The heat and humidity in certain localities during the summer months impose a certain strain, but access to the hills is easily practicable within a very short distance. The climate during the winter might almost be described as ideal, combining as it does invigorating cold with clear sunshine. The continued dullness of more northern climes is seldom experienced, and a rainy day is invariably succeeded by a cloudless sky.

Public health in 1924 was again good and no outbreak of epidemic disease is to be recorded. In contrast with all the neighbouring countries of the Levant and the Near East, Cyprus is entirely free from plague, typhus, and other virulent diseases, and stringent quarantine measures are in force against their introduction. No cases of such diseases occurred during the year and due credit must be given on this account to the medical services responsible, to the efficiency of which the complete immunity enjoyed is an eloquent testimony. Cyprus continued to be free from rabies, and the regulations prohibiting the importation of dogs from any destination were again strictly enforced.

The attention of the medical authorities was drawn especially during the year to the prevalence of phthisis in the Island. Steps were taken to collect statistics bearing upon this disease, and it was shown that while there is no ground for alarm a number of the poorer classes of the community both in the towns and in the villages are subject to it. The disease makes headway more readily by reason of the ignorance of those afflicted with it and of their inability to take the necessary precautions to prevent its dissemination. The construction by the Government of an isolation hospital has been decided upon and will be carried out in 1925. Here patients of slender means will receive treatment free of charge, and a centre of instruction in the methods of preventing and treating phthisis will be established.

The prevailing diseases, other than malaria and phthisis, were, as in previous years, those of the digestive and respiratory system, influenza, diseases of the skin, rheumatism and enteric fever. It is satisfactory to note that the number of cases of enteric fever recorded in 1924 is the lowest for the past fifteen years, and that it has been gradually reduced from 611 cases in 1918, to 314 in 1923, and 200 only in 1924. This decrease is principally due to the great improvements which have been effected in the course of this period to the water supplies of the towns and the villages throughout Cyprus.

A special anti-malaria campaign was conducted in 1924 on an increased scale under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. Although the incidence of malaria was no more marked than in 1923, the spleen rate, which is commonly regarded as the index of the prevalence of malaria in a country, advanced from 12 per cent. to 13·5 per cent. This increase is, however, more apparent than real and is attributable to the stricter check kept both on the part of the medical officers in the districts and on the returns rendered by them. The total spleen rate for the towns again showed a decrease, that for Larnaca and Limassol being as low as 1·7 per cent. and 2·2 per cent. respectively, and that for Nicosia 3·5 per cent. The customary anti-malaria works were executed during the year, but on a greatly increased scale, and in addition new works were undertaken with the additional funds which were made available for this service. These works included the cleaning and drainage of streams and marshes, combined where feasible with the planting up of swamps, the filling up of pools, and the oiling of the surfaces of disused wells and stagnant waters during the breeding season for mosquitoes. The Fresh Water Lake at Famagusta was pumped dry. It is worthy of remark that since the inauguration of the anti-malaria campaign in 1913 over 1,000 acres of marsh land have been reclaimed, of which some 500 acres are now under cultivation.

The great importance of supplies of pure drinking water from the point of view of the public health has been a matter of constant

concern to the Government and considerable attention was again paid to the improvement of existing supplies and the provision of supplies where none hitherto existed. It is interesting to record that in the five years from 1920 until the end of 1924 a sum of £23,750 has been provided for such improvements in 43 towns and villages and that this sum has been largely supplemented by subscriptions from the villages concerned.

The total number of births registered during 1924 was 8,946, being 27·3 per thousand of the population, as against 8,096 in 1923, or 25·1 per thousand.

The total number of deaths was 5,703, being 17·4 per thousand as against 5,715, or 17·7 per thousand, in 1923. The natural increase of the population was thus 3,243, as against an increase of 2,381 in 1923. The year generally was healthy, and the climatic conditions at the end of the summer were not so exhausting, as they sometimes are, on account of the early rains which began about the middle of October.

There were two Government-maintained hospitals, at Nicosia and at Limassol, and four Government-aided hospitals at the other principal towns of the Island in operation during the year, as well as sixteen rural dispensaries and eight branch dispensaries. Each rural dispensary is the headquarters of a rural medical officer, who works among the village population. The duties of these officers are sanitary as well as medical, and in particular during the past year they have been engaged on the intensified campaign against malaria. The dispensaries have been well attended and over 20,000 patients were afforded treatment during the year.

Almost 1,000 patients were admitted to the Central Hospital at Nicosia, which is fitted with 56 beds, and the out-patients treated numbered more than 10,000. One hundred and forty-five surgical operations were performed. A special feature of the Central Hospital is the maternity side and the attention there given to the training of midwives. The benefit of this training is greatly appreciated in the villages, but the number of midwives who can be trained annually is necessarily dependent on the number of patients admitted. Seven midwives completed the course during the year.

At the close of the year 107 inmates were detained at the Lunatic Asylum as against 105 at its commencement. Sixteen persons were discharged as cured, and fourteen died; the number of new cases admitted was thirty-two. The accommodation of the institution was ample, and there is nothing of interest to be recorded in this connection. Lunacy in Cyprus is generally of a mild form and restraint had to be resorted to in three cases only. Employment is found for some of the inmates indoors, while some are employed in keeping the grounds in order.

The number of lepers admitted to the Leper Farm, which is run on the lines of a village with its own church, mosque, and schools, showed an increase during the year, and the number of lepers detained at the close of the year amounted to 85, as compared with 75 at the close of 1923. There were seven deaths, all of which were advanced cases of the disease. Some of the inmates have been treated with intravenous injections of Chaulmoogra oil and preparations of antimony. In three cases the leprosy bacillus cannot now be detected, and in nodular cases the treatment has been successful in producing the disappearance of the nodules and the growth of the eyebrows. It is to the success of the treatment that the increase in the number of inmates is largely to be ascribed, as patients are voluntarily presenting themselves for admission to the settlement. Leprosy in Cyprus is well under control, and hopes are entertained that it may be possible in time entirely to eradicate it from the Island.

The number of children at the end of the year in the home for the healthy children of lepers was eleven, all of whom remained free from any sign of the disease.

LANGUAGES.

The language of the country is a local dialect, often very corrupt, of Modern Greek. Osmanli Turkish, somewhat archaic and free from Persian and Arabic words, is spoken by the Moslems, who, however, as a general rule, are conversant with Greek. In a less degree, French is spoken by the more educated classes, but Arabic, Egyptian or Syrian, is not generally spoken or understood. The knowledge of English is becoming more widely diffused, and, save in the most remote villages, there is usually to be found some one who can speak and even read and write that language.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

A very considerable number of members of the Moslem community, drawn mainly from the poorer classes and attracted by rumours of lucrative employment and the prospect of making their fortunes in Asia Minor, emigrated during the year. Of this number many have already returned in a state of complete destitution and it seems unlikely that there will be any great tendency on the part of their brethren who remained in Cyprus to follow their example.

Emigration to Egypt and Greece has continued as in previous years. The exportation of live-stock to these and other neighbouring countries in the Levant, to which reference is made in Section V of this report, has influenced it slightly. Many of those who were sent in charge of animals have not returned to Cyprus; and it is understood that some of them have obtained abroad facilities to travel far afield in search of other employment.

There have been few arrivals in Cyprus which could properly be catalogued under the heading immigration. Apart from the return of some of the Moslem emigrants mentioned above there is little to note. The influx of Greek and Armenian refugees formerly resident in Turkey has now practically ceased.

LABOUR.

Unskilled labour in Cyprus is plentiful except during harvest time, and there is on the whole an adequate supply of skilled native labourers and craftsmen. Labour rates during 1924 showed a tendency further to decrease, though no unemployment on any marked scale was recorded. The average wages paid for unskilled adult male labour were about 1s. 6d. per diem, as compared with 1s. 8d. in 1923, and 2s. per diem in 1922. The rate for female labour remained the same at 1s. per diem. Skilled labourers such as carpenters or masons received about 4s. per diem as in the previous year. Cyprus is fortunate in having, for the present at any rate, no labour or unemployment question as commonly understood in European countries.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The programme of public works executed during 1924 was reduced drastically on account of the urgent need for economy on all services. Owing to the lack of available funds the expenditure under this head amounted to £23,000 only, as compared with £52,000 in 1923.

The maintenance of existing main and secondary roads, bridges and culverts was continued as previously so far as was possible with the reduced funds available. Eight hundred and twenty-nine miles of main and secondary roads were maintained at an approximate rate of £17 per mile, as compared with £24 per mile in 1923. In addition, the usual Government-constructed bridle paths were kept up, and assistance was afforded to the district Commissioners in the construction and improvement of village roads.

A bridge was built over the river Ayios Onouphrios on behalf of the monastery of Machera on the road from the monastery to Nicosia. The Lefka Bridge was partially destroyed by floods and was rebuilt with the enlargement of the end span. Other bridges on the main roads from Troödos to Nicosia and to Limassol received the necessary strengthening and repairs.

The bridle track leading from Kakopetria in the Nicosia district to Mount Troödos was improved on behalf of Eastern Minerals, Ltd., who possess a concession to mine chrome iron ore, as also the track leading from Tembria to Nikos in the Nicosia district.

The usual maintenance work was carried out on Government works and buildings as well as on the Famagusta harbour, and on the piers and jetties throughout the Island. A new mooring buoy was put down in Famagusta harbour where the quay was repaired, and all cranes, buoys, trollies, and iron work periodically overhauled.

The houses for the Veterinary Surgeon and the Foreman of the Stock Farm at Athalassa, which were commenced in 1923, were completed during the year. The Limassol Hospital was provided with an adequate water supply, and other minor additions and alterations were effected to the hospital buildings at Nicosia and Limassol. Such improvements as were practicable were also carried out to the Government residences at Nicosia and elsewhere.

The electric power plants at Nicosia and Mount Troödos continued to supply the Government offices and residences with light, and in addition current was available for the working of machinery in the Government Printing Office.

Schemes for the improvement of water supplies were satisfactorily carried out or completed at the following villages in the Nicosia district, viz. :—Lythrodonta, Pera, Palaeochorio, Yero-lakko, Athiaenou and Lefka. The general outlines of the schemes were the same in each instance, consisting in the construction or improvement of chains of wells or aqueducts. The important works undertaken at Lefkara in the Larnaca district were successfully concluded at a total cost of £1,150. This large and progressive hill village is now assured of a constant and abundant supply of excellent drinking water. Improvements to the water supply were also effected at the villages of Kilani, Mandria, and Kantou in the Limassol district, and at Vavatzinia in the Larnaca district.

In addition, examinations were conducted and reports furnished by the engineers of the Public Works Department in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health on the water supplies of more than thirty villages throughout the Island. The necessary means to enable these schemes to be undertaken were provided on the half and half principle by the appropriation by vote of the Legislative Council of Surplus Verghi Kimat funds, and by subscriptions of equal amounts from the inhabitants of the villages concerned. As has been pointed out already, a total amount of £23,750 was voted for such improvements in the five years 1920–24.

TELEPHONES.

The telephone lines were, as usual, maintained by the Public Works Department, and the total length of the line now open is about 250 miles. No new lines were constructed during the year. About 40,000 calls were made on the central exchange at Nicosia.

IRRIGATION.

The usual works connected with the maintenance and repair of the irrigation reservoirs and channels, which are situated in the Eastern Messaoria, near to Famagusta, were satisfactorily carried out under the supervision of the Irrigation Superintendent. At the request of the inhabitants of the village of Enkomi for an increased supply of water, a new wall, 9 inches in height, was constructed over the entire length of the overflow of the Acheritou reservoir, thus providing storage for an additional 35,000,000 cubic feet of water. The year was free from incident, and no damage was sustained by the Irrigation works from floods.

It is now generally accepted that Cyprus is by natural configuration unsuited for the construction of irrigation works on a large scale, and that the best method of conserving the water supply of the country is by afforestation. Due attention is being paid, so far as funds permit, to this service, and a report dealing with this subject will be found in the following chapter. Encouragement is also afforded to the extension of irrigation by the sinking of chains of wells, and by the use of mechanical means to raise to the surface subterranean water of which a sufficient quantity is available in most parts of the Island. The gardens and orchards at Famagusta, from which port there is a considerable export trade in oranges, and fruit and vegetables in general, is an instructive example of the results that can be attained by the employment of air motors, which are steadily increasing in popularity.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

Cyprus is very rich in matters of archæological and anti-quarian interest. Of the monuments and historic buildings still standing, the most numerous, most beautiful, and the best preserved are those of Lusignan and Venetian eras of the thirteenth to the sixteenth century. There are also scattered throughout the Island remains of temples, tombs and cities of the classical and pre-classical periods.

The maintenance and supervision of the ancient monuments and historic buildings in Cyprus is undertaken by the Curator of Ancient Monuments, but the amount of money available for this service is unfortunately very small. The number of historic buildings, ruins, etc., now scheduled as ancient monuments is forty-one.

As in the preceding year, the principal work undertaken was the recovery of the site of the ancient city of Salamis, near Famagusta, which is considered to have been built in the first century before Christ. The Roman Salamis was essentially a commercial centre and its chief monuments partake of this character. Preliminary exploration of the site, commenced in 1890, revealed the existence of three forums and the operations at present in progress under the supervision of the Curator of

Ancient Monuments include the clearing of the great or stone forum, the opening of roads, and the re-erection of fragments of fallen columns. The great forum comprises within its outer walls an area of three and a half acres, a magnitude without parallel in regularly constructed market places surviving elsewhere; at the south end stood a temple of the usual Roman square proportions, dedicated to Jupiter Olympius; and on the north the colonnades of the market place are bounded by an immense tank built of masonry, which was probably a distributing reservoir for the town water supply.

The second or granite forum has not yet been investigated or set in order, but a slight clearance of stones and debris at what is apparently its north-eastern corner discovers the line of colonnade wall with two intact granite columns prostrate as they fell. The third and last regular forum is difficult of study and elucidation. It is constructed of marble and is of a later period of Roman art than the two much older market places. Above the forum cutting it off entirely from the sea is a mound of earth and sand supported towards the forum by a massive stone wall, at one end of which there are signs of a stairway leading up to what was presumably a fort or praetorian camp; beneath this sheltering hillock are the magnificent marble columns of a ruined stoa dating from the third century after Christ. At a point midway between the great and the marble forums the well-preserved plan of a large house or villa has been partly laid bare; the lower portion of the walls remains to the height of a few feet, and the site is very reminiscent of Pompeii. It was possibly the house of some wealthy merchant living in close proximity to the commercial centre. No clear indications of its date are apparent, and it may equally well belong to the beginning as to the end of the three centuries of Roman Salamis.

A Swedish archæologist who visited Cyprus during the year has made some most important and novel discoveries in the ethnology of the Island. He has found remains of a stone age civilization which had hitherto been supposed non-existent in Cyprus. Several examples of his finds are on exhibition in the Nicosia Museum and it is understood that a paper on the subject is in course of preparation.

Steps were taken during the year to remove to safe keeping in the Nicosia Museum the mosaic floors of a large Roman villa at Mansourah on the north-western coast of Cyprus. Repairs were completed to the roof platform and battlements of the Commandery of St. John at Colossi near Limassol, and this ancient monument has now been declared in such a way as to include all the outbuildings, which are of the greatest interest, within the protection of the Antiquities Law. An attempt was made to improve the condition of the mediæval ramparts of Nicosia, but with the means available the task of clearing and preserving more than a three-mile length of ruined earthworks can only be gradually performed.

Further investigation of the site of Apollo Mylates at the ancient Curium, near Limassol, to which reference has been made in previous years' reports, was disappointing in result. It would seem that very little remains to be discovered. As in the case of many similar places in Greece the traces of a Doric temple enclosure or temenos on this exposed plateau have almost disappeared; after some amount of exploration the only find was a Doric capital of a column of about 2 feet in diameter of the very latest style.

An interesting *Musée Lapidaire* is maintained by the Curator of Ancient Monuments at Nicosia. This was enriched during the year by the addition of two door lintels of thirteenth century houses in the old Cathedral close, which were demolished some years ago. Each is decorated with three coats of arms, the centre royal, the other two of the families to whom the houses belonged. A tombstone bearing the date 1322 was also contributed.

IV.—Government Finance.

The local revenue of Cyprus collected during the year 1924 amounted to £593,318, or £48,692 more than the original estimate, a position which can be considered eminently satisfactory. To this figure should be added the sum of £50,000 on account of the grant-in-aid from Imperial funds, making a total revenue from all sources of £643,318, as against £642,389 collected during 1923. The latter amount moreover includes the payment in January, 1923, of £25,000 on account of an instalment of the grant-in-aid normally payable in the previous December.

The expenditure amounted to £535,870, which, with the payment of £92,800 in respect of the Cyprus share of the Turkish debt charge, makes a total of £628,670 as against £675,499 in 1923. The excess on the year's working of revenue over expenditure is thus £14,648, as compared with the excess of expenditure over revenue of £33,110 in 1923. This excellent result has been achieved in spite of the uncertain prospects at the commencement of the year in consequence of which allowance was made in the Budget for an excess of expenditure over revenue of £43,074.

A marked revival in the Island's trade, both export and import, the unexpectedly high prices realised from the sale of the tithe grain, and the continued exercise of the strictest control over expenditure compatible with efficiency, combined to effect an improvement of approximately £58,000 in the actual financial position at the 31st December, 1924, as compared with the anticipated position at the commencement of the year.

In addition, it should be observed that a considerable quantity of the tithe grain of the 1924 harvest remained unsold at the end of the year, the proceeds from the sale of which, amounting to about £40,000, will be credited to the revenue of 1925.

Corresponding figures of revenue and expenditure for previous years are as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Grant- in-Aid.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Expendi- ture.</i>	<i>Turkish Debt.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920 ..	668,518	50,000	718,518	691,780	92,800	784,580
1921 ..	682,374	26,000	708,374	678,273	92,800	771,073
1922 ..	668,294	50,000	718,294	557,353	162,399	719,752
1923 ..	567,389	75,000	642,389	582,699	92,800	675,499

The excess of the local revenue over the original estimate, amounting to £48,692, surpassed all hopes even though it became clear as the year advanced that the depression in trade was steadily disappearing. The principal increases in the revenue are under Customs import dues, and Port and Harbour dues, attributable to the increased prosperity of the population and the consequent increased importation of goods ; under stamps, due to the strict enforcement of the provisions of the new Stamp Law enacted in 1923, and to sales of new issues to philatelists ; under Forest revenue due to increased sales of timber to mining corporations ; and under Rents and Royalties attributable to increased royalties received on the extraction and exportation of minerals.

A decrease is recorded under tithes, but, as explained above, the original estimate of receipts from this source was exceeded by over £16,000, and a further sum of about £40,000 has been passed to the credit of the year 1925.

Increases in expenditure are to be noticed under Pensions, due to an increased pension roll ; under the Police Department, due to the provision for the maintenance of the Rural Constabulary established at the end of 1923 ; under Medical Department, attributable to expenditure on the special campaign against malaria ; under Education, due to the increased grants paid to the education funds of the several communities in accordance with the laws enacted in 1923 ; and under the Forest Department, due to increased extraction of timber and fuel.

Decreases in the expenditure are observed in the Treasury Department, attributable to the reduction of staff and to the transfer of the duties connected with the annual counting of sheep, goats, and pigs for taxation to the Rural police ; there is also a decrease under Public Works, due to the curtailment of the programme of works in consequence of the necessity for economy, and under the head Miscellaneous, due to incidental causes which do not call for any special comment.

It is encouraging to note that Railway receipts showed a slight increase due to the transport of minerals for exportation, and exceeded the expenditure for the first time for several years despite the great increase in competition from motor transport.

The collection of the taxes was, as in preceding years, very satisfactory. The arrears of taxes outstanding on the 1st January, 1924, and amounting to £487 were all collected, with the exception of a few shillings, and the arrears outstanding on the 31st December, 1924, amounted to £392 only.

The total of revenue and expenditure from the date of the British occupation in 1878 up to the 31st December, 1924, is as follows :—

Revenue—collected locally	£	13,273,956
Grant-in-aid from Imperial funds ..		1,747,085
		<hr/>
		£15,021,041
		<hr/>
Expenditure—current	£	10,499,481
Turkish Debt Charge		4,304,134
		<hr/>
		£14,803,615
		<hr/>
Showing a surplus of		£217,426

The gross balance of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1924, exclusive of the Reserve Fund of £90,000, and the depreciation accounts on investments of the Reserve Fund and the Savings Bank, amounted to £108,393, as against £90,888 as at the 31st December, 1923.

Currency notes of £10, £1, and 10s. were in circulation throughout the year ; all other denominations have now become demonetized. The maximum amount of the currency note issues continues to be limited to £700,000, and the maximum value of notes actually in circulation at any one time during 1924 was £525,125 on the 31st December. During the year a considerable increase in the issue amounting to £114,955 was effected, due to the general revival in trade.

The cereal tithe assessment of 1924 was poor in quantity, though high prices were realised from the sale of the grain. Owing to the lack of rain during the months of February and March, the harvest was poor and the crops were below the average. The barley crop in particular was very disappointing, being 26 per cent. below the average for the previous ten years.

No further currency in coin was put into circulation during the year. Silver coin to the face value of £4,000 was held in reserve, and, in addition, a gold reserve of £18,000 is held by the Imperial Ottoman Bank on behalf of the Government.

BANKS.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank has branches in Nicosia, Larnaca, Famagusta, Limassol, Paphos and Lefkara, and also on Mount Troödos during the summer season. The Bank of Athens has

branches in Nicosia and Limassol. The Bank of Cyprus, established in 1912 under the provisions of the Ottoman Commercial Code, has its head office in Nicosia, with a branch at Limassol and agencies at Larnaca, Famagusta, Paphos, Kyrenia and Morphou.

A Government Savings Bank was opened, under Law 16 of 1900, on the 1st January, 1903. Interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is allowed. The number of depositors at the end of the year was 159 and the balance in hand was £7,225.

Negotiations for the establishment in Cyprus of an Agricultural Bank, which will advance money to farmers for agricultural purposes, have been for some time in progress and came finally to a definite conclusion towards the end of the year. It is anticipated that the Bank will shortly commence operations.

V.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports of merchandise during 1924 was £1,243,405, as against £1,072,573 for the year 1923, an increase of £170,832. The following table shows the imports for each of the last three years under the main heads of classification :—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco ..	335,544	263,080	404,196
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	152,928	124,696	137,083
Articles wholly or mainly manu- factured.	922,024	684,221	701,985
Miscellaneous and unclassified	1,201	576	141
Total	£1,411,697	1,072,573	1,243,405

The following table shows whence imports were received :—

	Value.	Percentage.
	£	
United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire.	516,365	41·53
Austria	14,344	1·15
Belgium	31,802	2·56
Egypt	78,239	6·29
France	64,922	5·22
Germany	79,842	6·42
Greece	67,830	5·46
Holland	19,789	1·59
Italy	82,249	6·62
Turkey	21,863	1·76
United States of America ..	84,842	6·82
Other Countries	181,318	14·58
Total	£1,243,405	100·00

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports of merchandise was £1,271,339, as against £893,733 in 1923, an increase of £377,606. The following table shows the exports during the last three years under the main heads of classification :—

	1922. £	1923. £	1924. £
Food, drink, and tobacco ..	567,993	506,671	660,474
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	161,954	293,091	440,112
Articles wholly or mainly manu- factured.	79,362	61,276	79,751
Miscellaneous and unclassified ..	61,902	32,695	91,002
Total	<u>£871,211</u>	<u>893,733</u>	<u>1,271,339</u>

The following table shows the direction of exports during the year 1924 :—

	Value. £	Percentage.
United Kingdom	301,504	23·71
Other Parts of the British Empire.	12,169	0·96
Egypt	273,509	21·51
France	73,598	5·79
Greece	199,300	15·68
Italy	171,155	13·46
Spain	23,638	1·86
Switzerland	367	0·03
Turkey	13,966	1·10
United States of America ..	21,079	1·66
Other Countries	181,054	14·24
Total	<u>£1,271,339</u>	<u>100·00</u>

The year 1924 has been most prosperous for Cyprus in point of view of trade, a fact which is indicated by the excess of the value of the exports over the value of the imports, amounting to £27,983. This is the first year since 1912 that the balance of trade has been in favour of the Island. In 1911 and 1912 the exports exceeded the imports, in 1913 and 1914 they were approximately equal, and since 1914 the imports have greatly exceeded the exports. In 1920 this excess was as high as £868,307, and in 1923 it was £178,840.

This satisfactory state of affairs is in the main accounted for by the large exports of minerals, good prices obtained for carobs, and the demand for animals from Cyprus for export, principally

to Greece. The total value of animals, i.e. mules, donkeys, oxen, and sheep, so exported was £200,608, as against £69,277 in 1923. The demand still continues and there is as yet no sign that the Island's resources in this direction are being overtaxed.

The carob crop was excellent, and very good prices were without difficulty realised. The production of raisins and wines was above the average both in quality and quantity, and obtained a ready market. Silk cocoons again sold well; hides and skins showed a further advance and the trade in gypsum was well maintained. The value of fruit and vegetables exported again showed an increase, particularly in the case of oranges, lemons, and pomegranates. The great activity in mining in Cyprus was clearly reflected in the export returns. The principal increase occurred under iron pyrites, and increases are also to be remarked under asbestos and chrome iron ore, the latter a new development. The decreases noticed are mainly under cereals due to the small harvest and under cotton as previously explained.

The increase of the value of the imports during 1924 may be taken as significant of the increased prosperity and purchasing power of the population. There is no doubt that the inhabitants both of the towns and of the villages have passed through a period of stress in sharp contrast to the period of prosperity during and immediately after the war, when they obtained very high prices for their produce. The return to normal conditions has been difficult, but every indication points to the conclusion that the corner has now been turned, and that brighter prospects are in store. The principal items under which an increased importation is noticed are wheat meal and flour due to the poor cereal harvest, sugar, rice, haberdashery and millinery and sole leather. Motor cars, motor cycles, and parts, showed an increase of £7,052, and carriages, cycles, and accessories of £3,548, a circumstance which seems to emphasise the development that is taking place daily in Cyprus along the line of improved communications. Machinery imported principally for the use of mining corporations increased to £18,732 in value.

Trade with the United Kingdom again showed an appreciable improvement during the year, the value of the exports increasing by £89,000 to £301,504. The percentage, however, of the total value of the exports remained the same as in 1923. The value of goods imported from the United Kingdom and from other parts of the British Empire was £516,365, as against £392,139 in 1923, or an increase of £124,226. The percentage of the total imports similarly rose from 36·6 per cent. in 1923 and 1922 to 41·5 per cent. Cyprus participated actively in the British Empire Exhibition, and the endeavours made in this connection with the object of encouraging Imperial trade with the Island are described in an earlier chapter of this report.

The value of specie imported during 1924 was £2,165 and of specie exported £1,393, as against £4,822 and £2,322 respectively in the previous year.

SHIPPING.

Three hundred and thirty steamships and 900 sailing vessels engaged in foreign trade called at Cyprus ports, chiefly at Famagusta, Limassol, and Larnaca, during the year, showing an increase in the case of steamships of 50 and a decrease of 150 in the case of sailing vessels as compared with the figures for the previous year. The number of vessels engaged in the coastal trade between the ports and anchorages of the Island similarly shows a small comparative increase in the number of steamships and a slight decrease in the number of sailing vessels.

The increase in tonnage of the steamers engaged in the foreign trade that entered Cyprus ports amounted to over 100,000 tons. Calls by Greek steamers at frequent but irregular intervals continued to be well maintained. As in previous years the Island enjoyed an excellent service of regular passenger steamers, which keep it in close touch with the ports of Egypt, Syria, Asia Minor, and Europe, afforded by the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company, the Lloyd Triestino Company, the Società Italiana di Servizi Marittimi, and the Messageries Maritimes.

AGRICULTURE.

Cyprus is essentially an agricultural country, and the majority of the population consists of peasant proprietors or tenants, farming their own lands or on their own account. Farms, known locally as chiftliks, on a larger scale exist, but it is on the peasant proprietor or smallholder that the agricultural prosperity of the Island has hitherto mainly depended. About one-half of the total area of Cyprus is under cultivation, and, of the remainder, about one-fourth is susceptible of cultivation. It would, however, be a matter of difficulty for an intending settler to obtain any considerable extent of suitable land, and then only at a high price.

Visitors to the Island are often heard to comment adversely on the primitive conditions under which agriculture is carried on locally as compared with those obtaining in European countries, or in more highly developed parts of the Empire; but such standards of comparison cannot in fairness be applied, and the progress made in this direction since the British occupation, and more particularly in the last 20 years, is a more equitable criterion.

During the 27 years of its existence, the Department of Agriculture has worked hard in the face of ignorance, distrust, and often of active opposition, to instruct and to innovate, and it is only of recent years that the fruits of its labours are becoming apparent. The year 1924 again witnessed a wholehearted continuance of effort on the part of the officials occupied in the many-sided activities of the department and also an encouraging advance into new fields of development. It is satisfactory to

note that the endeavours of the department are becoming more appreciated from year to year, and that its advice and assistance are invoked on a steadily increasing scale. Progress is not rapid; the Cypriot cultivator is, however, slowly but surely realising the benefits to be reaped from improved methods of cultivation and production.

The year 1924 was from the point of view of the cereal harvest disappointing, but as regards other agricultural crops, such as carobs and fruit, well up to the average. The cereal harvest was poor on account of the lack of rain during the spring. The barley yield in particular was very much below that of previous years; and the wheat crop was also poor, but the deficiency was made good by the importation of flour from abroad. The vetches, oats, and favetta crops also showed a reduction on the returns for an average year. Prices realised for grain, and especially for barley, were brisk, and farmers in general had no serious ground for complaint.

The carob crop was good and the yield approximately twice that of the previous year. Excellent prices obtained and the demand to purchase was brisk. The greater bulk of the 1924 harvest had been profitably disposed of and exported at the end of the year.

The production of wines, spirits, and raisins showed a distinct advance during the year. The bulk of the 1923 raisin crop which had remained on hand at the end of that year was readily sold, and no difficulty was experienced in obtaining a good market at increased prices for the 1924 crop, which was the largest for the last five years and almost half as much again as the 1923 crop. There was a healthy revival in the trade in wines with Egypt, and prospects are generally much brighter in this direction. Conditions attendant on the wine industry are certainly improving; indications are observed of the possibility of developing new markets and village producers under the guidance of the department's advisers are beginning to appreciate the importance of pure and standard manufacture. The light table wines produced at the Perapedhi factory are excellent in quality, and most reasonable in price.

The cotton crop was poor on account of the ravages of the cotton boll worm, and energetic measures have been taken to combat this pest in future years. The area planted with cotton was almost twice as much as in 1923, but the yield showed an increase of approximately 33·33 per cent. only. Good prices were obtained. The grape harvest was again satisfactory, and the vineyards were free from disease. Olives and olive oil were up to the average in quality and in quantity.

The fruit crops were excellent, and good prices prevailed more particularly in the case of oranges, lemons, and pomegranates. The best Cyprus oranges are considered by many to be superior to the Jaffa orange and it is satisfactory to record that there is

considerable extension of cultivation proceeding at the principal growing centres at Famagusta and Lefka. Steady shipments both of oranges and pomegranates were effected from Famagusta throughout the season for the most part to the Egyptian market. Other fruit crops include apricots, peaches, apples, melons, cherries, and walnuts. The cherry crop during 1924 was exceptionally good.

Cyprus produces abundant vegetables of high quality. Potatoes have been introduced into the Island with remarkable success, and the export trade in this commodity is steadily increasing. The principal district where potatoes are grown is in the neighbourhood of Famagusta. The yield in 1924 exceeded that of 1923 although some anxiety was caused by the appearance of disease. Large quantities of seed are imported, and every endeavour is made by the Agricultural Department to stimulate progress in this direction.

Agricultural Pests.

As has been stated in the preceding chapter some anxiety was caused during the year by the appearance of disease due to attacks of the potato pest, *lila solanella*, and of scab. Active steps were taken by the Agricultural Department under the direct supervision of the Entomologist to combat these pests, and in particular attention was given to the matter of the introduction from France of parasites of the *lila solanella* worm.

The study of the carob disease "*Brachicarpa*" was scientifically commenced during the year under review with the object of discovering and applying new methods of treatment in place of those at present in force which have not proved entirely efficacious. Investigations were also carried out in regard to the life history of the local variety of the processionary moth which attacks the pine tree and has been found to be a distinct variety peculiar to the Island.

The most serious agricultural pests that occurred during 1924 were the cotton pests, the Pink Boll Worm (*Platyedra (Gelechia) Gossypiella*) and the Spiny Boll Worm (*Earias Insulana*) which caused considerable damage to the cotton crop. New and drastic regulations have been made to deal with these two pests in future years including provision for the total eradication and destruction of all cotton plants by a prescribed date in each year after the harvest.

An insectary was constructed at Nicosia containing at present six large breeding cages besides ample room for many smaller cages, and a fumigation chamber is being built at Famagusta for the treatment of plants, seeds, and other articles on importation. The usual measures were undertaken to fight the almond maggot, and the codlin moth, while the necessary apparatus for the fumigation of citrus trees with hydrocyanic gas was procured in

readiness for use in 1925. No outbreaks of vine disease were recorded during the year, and it is satisfactory to note that the measures adopted in 1920-21 against *peronospora viticola* have been successful in freeing the vineyards totally from this disease.

The campaign against rats, which cause great damage to the carob trees, was continued on the lines described in earlier reports and will be resumed with increased intensity during the coming year.

Agricultural Experiments and Education.

The Agricultural Department has for many years endeavoured to encourage the use by farmers of modern agricultural machinery and implements. It has effected sales of tools on the hire-purchase system without interest, and has let out to farmers a certain number of implements on easy terms. Demonstrations have been carried out at suitable centres throughout the Island, and practical example has re-inforced instructional propaganda. As in other branches of agricultural life, the results of patient teaching are now making themselves apparent; the farmer has shown to a marked degree his increased desire to employ modern methods, and the importation of agricultural machinery by private firms was well maintained during the year. A noticeable feature was the large number of ploughs imported, a circumstance which indicates that the old prejudice in favour of the primæval wooden plough has been at last overcome. Ten tractors were introduced making a total number of tractors in use in the Island of more than forty.

Particular attention was again paid to the cultivation of flax which has hitherto been grown principally around Morphou in the Western Messaoria and in the Famagusta district. There is no doubt that the Island is well suited for the cultivation of flax and during the past year a very considerable area has been sown generally throughout the Island. The Agricultural Department has been actively engaged in affording advice to village growers. It has also procured plots of land in various localities for the purpose of carrying out experiments in regard to the nature of the soil and the use of fertilisers.

The First Cyprus Flax Society, which runs on co-operative lines, with its headquarters at Zodia near Morphou, completed the erection of the scutching factory purchased with the assistance of the Government. Work on a small scale was commenced and prices received for consignments of prepared flax sent to England were most encouraging. Samples despatched to Belgium were favourably reported on and one parcel was sold at the rate of £200 per ton. The cultivation of flax is becoming more and more popular; a second scutching plant has been ordered for erection at Limassol, and it is anticipated that the formation of other societies will materialise in the near future, while indications of private enterprise in this direction are not lacking. Encouragement is being afforded to this nascent industry by the Government

in every possible manner and also in a practical form through the importation of high-grade flax seed from Belgium for resale to cultivators at cost price on easy terms of repayment without interest. The seed imported at the end of the year for the 1925 harvest was readily disposed of and widely distributed in the several districts. Steps are also being taken to procure a quantity of pedigree flax seed from Ireland for special cultivation and distribution under the immediate supervision of the Agricultural Department.

Special attention was in like manner paid during the year to the extension of the cotton industry in the Island. The Agricultural Department conducted experiments in the cultivation of different varieties of seed obtained from Egypt and from America with the object of ascertaining the variety most suited to local conditions. These experiments will be continued during 1925 and in the meantime an order has been placed for the supply of a quantity of cotton seed to the department for distribution to growers as an advance against repayment without interest on the harvesting and sale of the crop.

Large quantities of artificial manures were imported during the year and their use is becoming increasingly widespread. The demonstrations in this connection conducted by the department in the past have thus borne practical result as the farmer has with his own eyes learnt to appreciate the benefits accruing from their use on the experimental plots cultivated by the department. The wine laboratory at Nicosia attached to the headquarters of the department continued its useful service, and an adviser in the manufacture and care of wines was stationed throughout the year at Perapedhi in the centre of the wine-producing villages in the Limassol district.

An official of the department visited Jaffa during the year and completed a course of training in the proper selection and packing of oranges. Particular attention is being paid to this important matter, and steps are also under contemplation for the introduction of improved methods of the preservation and crystallization of fruit, in which industry there should be an opening for a good and profitable undertaking.

The leather curing plant ordered during the previous year was received and installed. A considerable number of tanners attended the courses given in the departmental shops at Nicosia, but endeavours to start a Co-operative Society which will work on the lines indicated have not so far proved successful.

In addition to the officer of the department who visited Jaffa for instruction in the orange trade, another officer was sent to England for three years' training in general agriculture at Wye College, Kent. A third officer returned from Athens during the year on completion of a term of instruction in the manufacture of wine.

The usual lectures were given at the Agricultural School at Nicosia and twenty-six students attended as compared with twenty-two in 1923. The school increases annually in popularity and a large number of applications to be enrolled were of necessity refused.

A new nursery garden was opened during the year at Trikoutsia near Mount Troödos at an altitude of about 4,000 ft. with the object of facilitating the supply of grafts and seedlings of fruit trees to the neighbouring villages, and of serving as an experimental station for fighting insect pests and preserving fruit trees.

As in previous years village schools throughout the Island were encouraged, under the immediate supervision of the Agricultural Department and in close co-operation with the Education Department, to cultivate and maintain school gardens, and prizes were awarded to the most successful. One hundred and five school gardens were recognised during the year as against ninety-three in 1924. The usual arbor day celebrations were conducted when many thousands of seedlings and young trees were planted by the school-children. Eleven model orchards, nine vineyards, and ten experimental plantations were maintained during the year, and very considerable interest in them was shown by the farmers.

The Agricultural Department was largely responsible for the preparation and despatch of exhibits for the British Empire Exhibition which were representative of the many-sided agricultural life of the Island, of the implements used, and of the products and manufactures obtained.

SERICULTURE.

Cyprus is the second most important silk-producing country in the British Empire, and the rearing of silkworms is an important and growing local industry. The principal centres are Nicosia, Paphos, and the Karpass division of the Famagusta district, where the white mulberry tree is extensively cultivated for the breeding of silkworms; nearly all the cocoons produced are exported, mainly to France. Special attention is paid by the Government to the industry, which is under the close supervision of the Agricultural Department, and egg raising for reproduction purposes is permitted only by special license to a limited number of persons, who are subject to periodical inspection.

The production of silk cocoons in 1924 was excellent, showing an appreciable increase on the output of the previous year. Prices obtained were again satisfactory and no difficulties were experienced in exporting the crop.

The silk filature established by the Government at Nicosia did useful work and attracted considerable interest on the part of those interested in the industry. Samples of locally reeled silk sent to England for examination received most favourable notice. The usual supervision was carried out by the Agricultural Department during the year under review with satisfactory results.

The representative of an influential British company visited Cyprus during the spring and early summer for the purpose of investigating the prospects of further local development of the silk industry. It is hoped that as a result of this visit the company will shortly establish the first commercial silk filature in the Island. The establishment of such a filature working on sound business lines should go far to give an additional stimulus to this already flourishing industry.

LIVESTOCK.

As in preceding years the improvement of the Island's live-stock continued to engage the earnest attention of the Government. At Athalassa, three miles from Nicosia, the Government possesses a large stock farm which is under the immediate supervision of an experienced manager, who is also a member of the Cyprus Stock Committee, a body which advises the Government on all matters relating to stockbreeding. At this farm stock are raised for sale throughout the country, and, in addition, thoroughbred stallions, donkeys, bulls and boars stand for service at nominal fees. Poultry of various kinds are bred in large numbers, and these, as well as eggs for hatching, are sold in different parts of the Island. The usual auction sales of stock reared on the farm were conducted at Nicosia, and at various centres throughout the Island; it is satisfactory to record that considerable interest was shown generally by the villagers in such sales, pigs again being particularly in demand.

During the year the following services were effected by the stud animals :—

At Athalassa :—

Mares, 190 ; donkeys, 61 ; cows, 163 ; sows, 48.

And in the districts :

Mares, 293 ; donkeys, 256 ; cows, 95 ; sows, 443.

The farm lands at Athalassa, amounting in all to some 1,800 acres, were as usual under cultivation as a model farm for the production of cereals, lucerne, etc. ; labour was plentiful, the reformatory, run in connection with the farm on the lines of a Borstal Institution, as described in another chapter of this report, making available a daily average of more than seventy youths throughout the year. There is a good water supply on the farm, and reafforestation has been undertaken on the less fertile parts.

The stud stables at Famagusta, Yialoussa, Limassol and Paphos continued to render good service and arrangements were made to re-open the stable at Larnaca during the year.

The health of animals in Cyprus is particularly good, especially when the somewhat backward and unhygeinic conditions in which they are kept in the villages are considered, and the Island is surprisingly free from serious contagious disease.

The veterinary staff is under the supervision of a trained veterinary surgeon who is assisted by two stock inspectors. During the year special attention was again paid to education by means of propaganda. A large number of visits were made to outlying areas where lectures were delivered on animal diseases and demonstrations of vaccination were given. Leaflets were distributed in localities affected by particular diseases. The value of such practical teaching has already begun to demonstrate itself in the increasing number of reports of sickness and disease in live-stock which are sent in voluntarily to the Veterinary Office. Hitherto there has existed a rooted objection on the part of the villagers to informing the authorities of the existence of disease amongst their animals, due in part to a desire to avoid severe quarantine restrictions, and outbreaks of disease were seldom reported until many animals had succumbed. A tendency is now, however, setting in to report cases where one or two animals in a village die in suspicious circumstances, and every measure is taken to encourage such voluntary action. During the year more than one hundred reports were received in this manner or over double the number received in the previous year. The diseases under notice included anthrax, black quarter, contagious abortion, tuberculosis, piroplasmosis, fowl cholera, fowl pox, tetanus, verminous bronchitis and gastro-enteritis of sheep and goats, and a disease of sheep which has not hitherto been seen in this country and the exact nature of which is not yet determined.

It is satisfactory to note that no case of variola of sheep or goats was observed during the year under report. These diseases have caused very severe losses in the past and the active measures taken against them in recent years having been followed by a gradual reduction to nil in the number of outbreaks, it is hoped that their total eradication is assured.

At the veterinary dispensary in Nicosia over 160 Government and Police animals attended for treatment or examination. The Government Stock Farm and the animals at the stud stables and Police Stations throughout the Island were frequently visited, as also the S.P.C.A. hospitals in Nicosia and the district towns where advice was given as to treatment of the animals.

Anthrax continues to have a widespread distribution in the Island and the annual loss from this source greatly exceeds the number of cases reported to the Veterinary Branch. A step further in the attempts to control the disease was made during the past year when additional funds were allotted for the purpose of an anti-anthrax campaign ; inoculation of over 7,000 sheep and goats was carried out in certain severely infected areas with satisfactory results. While the immunity afforded by the vaccine does not in all cases protect for a full year, there have been no reports of post-vaccination accidents though a few such cases may occur. The number of animals inoculated in 1924 was as follows :—

Equines 99, bovines 95, sheep and goats 8,946, pigs 42, and camels 5, making a total of 9,187 animals as compared with 3,219 in 1923 and 800 in 1922.

The value of propaganda in dealing with disease is strikingly apparent where anthrax is concerned. The disease which used to be regarded almost as an annual liability on stock raising in Cyprus, is now beginning to attract more attention owing to the possibility of its prevention becoming more generally appreciated and this is evidenced by the fact that some thirty-one areas reported the disease in 1924, as compared with seventeen in the two preceding years, and in all of these areas enquiry showed that the disease had been of perennial occurrence. It is worthy of mention that in those areas in which the mortality has been severe, the majority of the deaths recorded occurred prior to the disease being reported. In cases in which early action was possible, e.g., the enforcement of burial of carcasses and the vaccination of in-contact animals, subsequent deaths were few.

Black Quarter (known also as black leg and quarter-ill) appears to be comparatively prevalent in certain parts of Cyprus, oxen of all ages from six months upwards being susceptible. The stock owners are being taught to distinguish the disease from anthrax with which it has been much confused in the past. The disease was diagnosed in six areas as compared with five, three, and one in the three preceding years. The reported deaths number 30, as against 17 and 13 in 1923 and in 1922. Two hundred and twenty-four oxen were inoculated with Black Quarter vaccine as compared with 96 in the previous year.

The incidence of contagious bovine abortion, to the prevalence of which among Government-owned cows reference was made in last year's report, is now well under control. Agglutination tests have been carried out on animals on infected premises.

Outbreaks of strongylosis of sheep and goats were reported from seventeen areas, in some of which the percentage of mortality was high. Simple and inexpensive forms of treatment were recommended, and, where applied, were followed by satisfactory results.

Cyprus animals, in particular mules and donkeys, are highly prized abroad on account of their powers of endurance and of their immunity from disease. Considerable exportation again took place during the year, principally to Greece, in addition to the usual trade with Egypt, Palestine and Syria. Large numbers of oxen and sheep were also exported at good prices. The improvement in the breed of Cyprus poultry within the last few years has been very marked, and Cyprus poultry and eggs have acquired a high reputation in Egypt and the Levant.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT AND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

As in the preceding years every endeavour was made in 1924 to encourage thrift through the system of co-operative credit and to improve the position of the agriculturists of the Island by the

inculcation of the principles of co-operation in farming and in trade. Negotiations were finally completed with the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the establishment under their auspices of an Agricultural Bank in Cyprus. It is proposed that the Bank should in large measure operate through the medium of loans to co-operative societies as well as to individuals.

Twenty-eight Co-operative Credit Societies were in operation, five of which were registered during the year. On the whole the progress made in 1923 was well maintained although, as was to be expected, some of the new Societies which had received Government assistance had not made adequate arrangements for the repayment of loans granted to them, and, when the time for the first instalment came due, were unable to meet their liabilities promptly. The Committees are now beginning to realise that the Societies, if they are to remain solvent, must make some profit on their transactions, must insist on the punctual repayment of loans granted to members and must adhere strictly to regulations.

There have been very few complaints from members against the management of the Societies and in no case has it been necessary to do more than bring irregularities to the notice of the Committees to have them promptly adjusted.

The Co-operative Societies (other than Credit Co-operative Societies) were in operation under Law X of 1923. The administration of the Law gave rise to no difficulty; no amendments have been necessary in the Law or in the Rules made thereunder.

Of the two Societies registered in 1923, the First Cyprus Flax Co-operative Society, Limited, continued to work satisfactorily although difficulty has been encountered in the collection of unpaid share capital which in turn placed the Society in an unsatisfactory position as regards its own liabilities at the close of the year. The number of members of the Nicosia Co-operative Building Society, Limited, having been reduced to less than ten, the registration of this Society was cancelled under Section 43 of the Law on the 3rd of April, 1924.

One Society organised for the sale of fruit and vegetables on a co-operative profit-sharing basis was registered and is at present negotiating with the Limassol Municipal Council with a view to obtaining permission to open a shop outside the Municipal Market. Eight small wine-making Societies were formed in the Limassol district. Their capital consists of grapes contributed by members and it is hoped that the sale of the wine made therefrom will bring in a larger profit than was received by the growers working as individuals. They have the advantage of free advice from the Agricultural Department's wine expert. One of these, the Ayios Therapon Co-operative Wine-Making Society, Limited, has not yet started operations.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to establish a Co-operative Society in Lefka for the marketing of oranges abroad. An application for the registration of a Flax Society in the Messaoria was received and is under consideration.

There is no doubt that the co-operative movement as a whole continues to gain ground. Its growth is necessarily slow and it is premature to assert that all of the societies which have been or may be founded will be successful. Co-operation is, however, now widely discussed throughout the villages and no longer as a remote ideal but as a practical solution of the social and economic problems of village life.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

The manufacture of wine and spirits and of raisins is a well-established industry in the Limassol and Paphos districts, and in certain parts of the Nicosia district. The grape harvest of 1924 was again good, and market conditions showed a distinct improvement; the demand was brisk and no difficulty was experienced in disposing of the production at satisfactory prices. £55,000 were realised from the exportation of raisins, as against £17,000 in 1923, while the value of the wines exported was £72,000, as compared with £48,000 in the preceding year.

The manufacture of cigarettes is a thriving local industry; there are seven tobacco factories in the Island, four of which are equipped with modern machinery. The tobacco consumed is imported chiefly from Greece, the locally-grown tobacco being used only in cigarettes of inferior quality. Cyprus cigarettes are sent all over the world, and enjoy an excellent reputation.

Cotton manufactures of local design form an important industry in a minor degree. Goods sent for sale at the British Empire Exhibition attracted considerable attention both on account of their original and serviceable qualities.

The making of lace at Lefkara, of a design closely related to Venetian point lace, is a prosperous business, and the itinerant lace-sellers have penetrated with their wares to all corners of Europe, and as far afield as the continent of America.

Other exports from the Island include minerals, gypsum, and terra umbra, animals, hides and skins, cheese, sumac leaves, silk cocoons, wool, salt, vegetables and fruit.

LAND.

The tenure of land in Cyprus is governed by the Ottoman Land Law. Agricultural land in general (*Arazi Mirie*) is held by a title deed (*Qochan*), which is issued by the Land Registry Office, the real ownership remaining with the State. It can be alienated by sale, in which case a new title deed is issued and the transaction registered by the Land Registry Office. It is transmissible by inheritance within certain specified degrees of relationship, but cannot be transmitted by will. If it becomes vacant by failure of heirs, it escheats to the State (*mahlul*).

Buildings, trees, gardens, vineyards and wild grafted trees which have been granted are known as *mulk* (*Arazi Memluke*), and included in this category are building sites within or near a town or village. Immovable property held under this tenure belongs in full to the owner, is alienated and inherited like movable property, and the provisions of the land code do not apply to it.

Unowned or waste land is known as *Hali* (*Arazi Mevat*). This may, with permission of the Government, and on payment of certain fees representing its equivalent value, be taken up and cultivated, the ownership, as in the case of *Arazi Mirie*, remaining with the State. Land left uncultivated for certain periods can be forfeited.

The charges on *Arazi Mirie* are : (1) *Verghi Kimat*, a land tax at the rate of four per thousand of the capital value ; (ii) tithes of the produce of land ; and (iii) a fee on transfer by sale or inheritance.

Prices of land vary according to its adaptation to certain crops, its means of irrigation, and its position in relation to towns and villages. Prices, therefore, vary from a few shillings per donum (one-third of an acre) to £30 or £40, while land in the vicinity of towns suitable for building sites may fetch over £200 a donum. The average size of a plot of land is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Difficulty would be experienced, however, by an intending settler in obtaining any considerable extent of suitable land for development.

During the year under review 375 donums (125 acres) of *Hali* (waste) land were granted by Government for a payment of £87, the full estimated value being at an average price of 4s. 6cp. per donum (13s. 8d. the acre). In the same year, 213 donums (71 acres) of *Hali* (waste) land were sold at auction, realising £537, an average price of £2 10s. 4cp. a donum (£7 11s. 2d. the acre).

The improved conditions prevailing in 1923 in regard to agriculture generally were reflected in the appreciation in the value of land. After the degree of extreme depression reached in 1922 prices tended steadily to rise in spite of the number of forced sales of immovable property resultant on the foreclosing of mortgages, and for the satisfaction of debts, which continued to take place. The regulation under which forced sales are fixed to take place after the harvest or the gathering of the various crops, referred to in last year's report, was again in application, and afforded considerable relief. As in previous years the Land Registry Department was briskly engaged. Increases of transactions carried out are observed principally under forced sales, and under registrations of titles ; decreases are recorded under registration of mortgages and searches, due to the reduction in the number of unsecured cases of old debts, and under other attachments of property for debt attributable to a large number

of cases of old debts having been cleared off. The position as regards land tenure is much more healthy than at the commencement of the year and indications are not lacking that the improvement will be maintained.

VI.—Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

FORESTS.

Cyprus possesses valuable resources in its forests, for which, at one time, it was famous. During the Turkish administration it was practically denuded of its forests, but since the British occupation in 1878 there has been a considerable improvement, and artificial reafforestation has been carried out as far as funds permitted. During the late war the forests of Cyprus rendered great service to the Allied Armies in Egypt and Palestine in supplying them with a large proportion of their needs in the way of timber and fuel.

The total area of the delimited State forests, which comprise practically all the forests in the Island, is now estimated at 415,000 acres, and the total length of the forest boundaries is over 1,700 miles. The principal species of tree growing in them are the Corsican and Aleppo pine, juniper, plane, dwarf oak, alder and cedar. The forests supply the local needs for fuel and in part for timber, but endeavours to open up markets for Cyprus timber abroad have hitherto been unsuccessful on account, it would appear, of its inferior quality as compared with that grown in Scandinavia and America, and of the relatively high cost of production. Exploitation of the forests on a commercial scale has in fact been shown to be impracticable, nor indeed is it economically desirable. It must not be forgotten that the principal value to the Island of its forests is indirect, depending not so much on their revenue-earning potentiality as on their climatic effect, and their importance should be gauged rather by the part they play in increasing the rainfall and in preserving the sources of water supply than by the material worth of the produce that is extracted from them.

The general condition and health of the forests continued to be good, although there was in most pine forests a considerable loss of increment due to the attacks of the caterpillar of the processionary moth. Over small areas the nests of these caterpillars were collected, but in the larger forests this method is far too costly. It is hoped that the ravages of this pest will eventually be checked through the agency of a parasite which has recently been discovered. The depredations of the pine weevil appeared to be less than in the previous years on account of the continual clearing of the "lop and top" and barking of the material left in the felling areas. Natural reproduction was induced or aided, as and when practicable, by the Forest Department, and re-afforestation undertaken so far as the available

funds permitted. In many respects the year 1924 was favourable from the silvicultural aspect. The weather was comparatively cool until June and there were a few showers of gentle character during the summer and early autumn which produced conditions suitable for self-sown seedlings to thrive.

The area comprised in the regular plantations which are maintained by the Forest Department showed an appreciable increase as compared with 1923. The new plantations are situated near Stavros in the Paphos forest, and in the Nicosia and Larnaca districts. Some planting was, however, done in each of the other districts, and further extensions were effected at Dikellia on the border of the Famagusta and Larnaca districts. Roadside planting was continued as in preceding years although the programme had to be restricted from lack of funds. Existing stretches were protected and tended so far as was possible, and further operations were commenced in the neighbourhood of the towns of Nicosia, Famagusta, and Paphos. The total length of roadside now planted with trees is 74 miles. Seedlings were again distributed to private individuals for planting in gardens and small properties.

Arbor day was celebrated as usual in co-operation with the Agricultural and Education Departments, and a large number of trees were planted by the school-children in upwards of one hundred school gardens.

The enactment of the Rural Constable Law has proved a great encouragement to the people to plant trees on private holdings owing to the more complete security from damage by animal grazing and otherwise which they now enjoy.

Enumeration and general surveys were continued as in preceding years ; additional demarcation cairns were constructed and a beginning was made in sowing seed of the Azarol hawthorn in order to indicate clearly the exact line of the forest boundary. Regular working plans and reports are in course of preparation, and cutting operations have been commenced on a rotation basis in certain plantations.

The great enemy of the Cyprus forests is the goat. These destructive animals with their poisonous teeth and voracious appetite do incalculable damage to seedlings and young trees in addition to the indirect mischief caused by the trampling of their feet and the loosening of earth and stones on the steep mountain sides which affects to a very heavy degree the annual increment of growth. The difficulties encountered in this connection by the Forest Department are augmented considerably by the ignorance and lawlessness of the shepherds and by the general failure to realise and admit the evil effects of promiscuous goat grazing. Every possible endeavour is being made to restrict and reduce the number of goats for which permits are issued to graze in the State forests. It is not practicable to effect their total exclusion by a stroke of the pen. The desired result can only be achieved

gradually with the slow but none the less certain change from pastoral to agricultural conditions in the areas where these animals chiefly abound. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to record that the number of goats is steadily decreasing: the decrease in 1924 alone was approximately 12 per cent. due to exportation, increased consumption of meat, and also to disease.

Although additional measures had been taken by the Forest Department to prevent the outbreak of fires, the year will long be remembered on account of one of the worst fires hitherto recorded in the history of the forests of Cyprus, which broke out in the Paphos forest and burned for over a week. Great destruction was done to one of the best portions of the Island's forests; the area covered extended nine square miles, and the number of trees burnt was about 111,000, of which it is estimated that some 74,000 have died. There is little doubt that the fire was malicious in origin having been deliberately started by certain shepherds who were discontented at the restriction or withdrawal of grazing permits. Their action has been generally condemned by all shades of public opinion and, although it was not possible to bring the culprits personally to book, it is hoped that they have now realised that the loss in this manner occasioned falls not only on the community as a whole but also more immediately on themselves. Education and easy access to more civilised conditions of thought and living are the principal deterrents against a repetition of such conduct. This aspect of the problem is engaging the close attention of the Forest Department, while at the same time the construction of fire paths on as extensive a scale as possible is being carried out.

Financially the year showed an advance as compared with the previous year. The revenue collected amounted to £32,000 as against £27,000 in 1923 and 30,000 in 1922. The expenditure amounted to approximately £40,000, but in reckoning up the account of profit and loss the indirect benefits of improved management and development must not be disregarded.

MINING.

The increased interest and activity in mining in Cyprus noticed in last year's report was well maintained during 1924. The Cyprus Asbestos Company continued its operations at Amiandos, near Mount Troödos, on an extensive scale and the quantity of asbestos exported was twice as great as in the previous year. On account of the severe competition prices were again depressed. The aerial rope railway from the mines to the sea at Limassol, a distance of 17 miles, was completed and put into use during the year, and further exploitation of the rich deposits which abound in this area is in progress.

The Cyprus Mines Corporation at Skouriotissa signalled another great advance during the year and these mines now rank, in the matter of output, high in the order of the world's pyrites workings. Approximately 130,000 tons of cupriferous iron pyrites ore, to an

approximate value of £170,000, were exported in 1924 as compared with 50,000 tons to the value of £60,000 in 1923. After some years of steady development this undertaking is now firmly established. The Corporation maintains its own railway line as a branch of the Government Railway from the mines to the sea from which they are distant about five miles. Here it has constructed a pier with all facilities for expeditious handling and shipping of the ore. The average daily pay roll of persons employed on the mines in 1924 was 1,150. Special attention is given to the conditions under which the labourers work and live ; an improved system of ventilation has been installed in the underground workings, shops and cafés have been opened for the facility of the workers and their families, and a hospital with complete modern equipment has been established under the charge of a qualified British doctor. The Corporation has been granted a mining lease over a second area at Mavrovouni near Lefka in the vicinity of the present mines, and further developments of considerable magnitude are contemplated.

The Cyprus Sulphur and Copper Company as in the previous year held a concession to work iron and copper pyrites deposits at Lymni in the Paphos district. A British Company, Cyprus Magnesite Limited, which was granted a lease to mine magnesite in the Akamas peninsula towards the close of 1923, commenced preliminary operations, but it is disappointing to record that the first results have scarcely fulfilled expectations.

The chrome iron ore mines on Mount Troödos were in operation by a syndicate intitled Eastern Minerals Limited. Satisfactory progress has been made, and over 2,800 tons of ore to the value of £9,600 were exported during the year.

A further lease to mine chrome iron ore in the Limassol district has been granted to a local enterprise, and five exclusive licenses to work marble, gypsum, umber and ochres have also been issued. The indications of maintained interest and development in the mining industry in Cyprus are generally encouraging. It is hoped that the natural mineral wealth of the Island will become increasingly productive of prosperity to the inhabitants, and of revenue to the State. The mines are in the majority of instances situated in the poorest parts of the Island, and they have already in the years of trade disturbance and agricultural depression been of very considerable benefit in these districts to the lower class of labourers who would otherwise have found great difficulty in obtaining any employment or means of livelihood.

Prospecting operations for all kinds of mineral deposits are being carried on throughout the Island by British, foreign, and local prospectors. Sixty applications to prospect for various minerals were received, and 51 new licenses were issued to companies and individuals during the year.

SPONGE FISHING.

The sponge fisheries in the territorial waters of Cyprus are supervised by the Chief Collector of Customs, who is the Government Inspector of Fisheries.

The sponges obtained locally are of good quality, but the Cypriot does not take kindly to the industry, and the fishing is mostly done by fishers from the Greek Islands, more particularly Symi and Calymnos. Thirteen machine boats from the Greek Islands and two local boats operating with harpoons fished from July to September during the year, as compared with a total of eighteen boats in 1923. In spite of the fact that the number of boats was thus reduced, and that the results achieved in 1923 were exceptionally good, being the best since 1915, the catch was very nearly as great as in 1923. Approximately 600,000 sponges were obtained of an assessed value of about £9,000.

VII.—Legislation.

Twenty bills were brought before the Legislative Council during its session of 1924, of which eighteen became law, one was thrown out by a majority of votes of the elective members, and one was withdrawn. Most of these laws are of purely local interest, dealing with the appropriation of moneys, with alterations in the Customs tariff; and with various amendments of minor importance to existing laws. Of the remainder, the most noteworthy or interesting are the following :—

Law IX.—To provide for the Establishment of Warehouses for the securing of Wines and Spirits for Export.

Law XI.—To provide for the Imposition of Fees in connection with the grant of Certificates of British Nationality under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Acts, 1914 to 1922.

Law XII.—To provide for the Granting of Patents.

Law XV.—To Prevent the Spreading of Malaria.

VIII.—Educational Progress.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Education in Cyprus is not compulsory, and the control of the schools is left in the hands of the various religious communities which have their several governing bodies operating under the supervision of the Education Department. Considerable importance is attached to the benefits derived from education and a great interest is taken in the administration of the schools.

The Greek-Christian schools worked for the second year under the law enacted in 1923 with satisfactory results. The enactment of this law had been a matter of controversy for some years, but in 1923 the desire for more efficient management and increased

financial support culminated in a strong request from the Greek-Christian members of the Legislative Council that the community should come educationally into line with the other religious denominations. As in the case of these other denominations the law once enacted has been accepted with equanimity by all classes of tax-payers, and the benefits obtained thereunder are generally recognised and appreciated.

Under the law which now applies, as it has been explained, to all communities, the teachers are appointed by the Board of Education, instead of by the Village Committees under the previous administrative system; they are paid on a fixed scale according to their service and class; and on retirement are eligible to receive gratuities. Duly qualified teachers have replaced unqualified teachers, and by the grant of gratuities it has been possible to discontinue the service of many old teachers who by reason of age or infirmity were incapable of the proper performance of their duties. On the financial side it has been practicable to do much in the way of opening new schools, particularly in the smaller villages, of improving existing buildings, and of providing suitable living accommodation for teachers.

The Moslem community is well supplied with schools in proportion to its size. Many of the schools, however, are small and it has been difficult in many cases to secure competent teachers. The work of the Education Department in this direction during the year has consisted principally in improving school buildings as far as possible and in strengthening the personnel.

The schools of the smaller communities, such as the Latins, Maronites, Armenians, and Jews, have also benefited from the regular income ensured under the law. In particular the Armenian schools at Nicosia and Larnaca have met most courageously the strain thrown on them by the large influx of refugees during the past five years.

During the year under review there were 553 Greek-Christian, 252 Moslem, and 16 other denominational schools open, giving a total of 821, or an increase of 45 as compared with the preceding year. More than 47,000 scholars attended the schools, with an average attendance, as in 1923, of about 38,000. The total expenditure on elementary education in 1924 was £90,560, and the number of teachers employed 1,141.

The progress of education under the British Administration can best be gauged by a comparison of the returns for the years 1881 and 1924 :—

			<i>Schools.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					£
1881	..	..	170	6,776	3,672
1924	..	..	821	47,431	90,560

Of this expenditure £54,000 was contributed by the Government as a grant-in-aid and the remainder was raised by direct assessment.

Good progress was again made in the construction and improvement of school buildings. Thirty-eight new school buildings were completed, and nine others commenced, while additions and repairs were carried out in sixty-nine instances.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The work under this heading proceeded during the past year on the accustomed lines, which are mainly classical.

The principal Moslem Secondary Schools are the Sultani for boys and the Victoria for girls in Nicosia, though there are intermediate classes attached to the Elementary School of each town. The programme is arranged to prepare boys for higher education at Constantinople.

There is a Greek-Christian Gymnasium or High School in each town except Larnaca, which has a flourishing Commercial Lyceum, the schools of Famagusta and Paphos having during the year become complete Gymnasias by the addition of the necessary classes. These schools prepare their pupils for the University of Athens; a large number, however, do not proceed so far. It is unfortunate that owing to local conditions and to the difficulties now experienced in emigration many boys educated at the secondary schools remain without employment and it would appear to be the case that the needs of Cyprus in secondary education are more than fully satisfied.

English is taught voluntarily and with some measure of success at all these schools, and the Sultani of Nicosia and the Lyceum of Larnaca have English masters.

The English School at Nicosia (undenominational), now styled the Commercial College, which is conducted on the lines of an English Grammar School, and the American Academy at Larnaca (attached to the Reformed Presbyterian Mission) continued their useful work during the year. The commercial school, founded at Lemythou in 1912 by the late Mr. D. Mitsis, a native of that village, also continued its valuable work. The private girls' school recently opened at Limassol and another started at Nicosia under the auspices of the Reformed Presbyterian Mission already referred to have done much to fill a want that has long been felt in this direction. A new girls' school has been established at Limassol by the Sisters of St. Francis. The total expenditure on Moslem and Greek-Christian Secondary Education during the year amounted to about £22,300, as against £25,859 in 1923, collected mainly from entrance fees and from grants by religious authorities. The Government grant towards the cost of English teaching was £1,500, as in the preceding year.

GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS.

The Government examinations in English, Turkish, and Greek, and the Civil Service Qualifying Examination, were, as usual, held during the year. About 200 candidates presented themselves for the examinations in English, of whom approximately the one-half were successful and were awarded certificates. The certificates awarded to the successful candidates are highly valued not only by Government officials, but also by those seeking employment elsewhere.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

There are no technical schools proper in Cyprus apart from the advanced secondary schools to which reference has already been made.

The agricultural school, which is maintained by the Agricultural Department and is described in another chapter of this report, has continued its work as in previous years. Lectures on chemistry have been given for some years by the Government Analyst, the classes being attended principally by student compounders preparing for the pharmaceutical examination. Apprentices are taken by the Government railway and in the workshops of the Public Works Department, while in the Central Prison at Nicosia boot-making, tailoring and carpet-making are taught.

ATHALASSA REFORMATORY.

The reformatory for juvenile convicts, started in 1920 at the Government stock farm at Athalassa, is run on the lines of a Borstal Institution, and the boys, whose ages range from fourteen to eighteen, are employed on various useful duties connected with the farm. The number of juvenile convicts employed daily throughout the year was over seventy; discipline was well maintained and the standard of behaviour was good. The health of the settlement was again excellent and the work performed satisfactory. The employment on which the juveniles were principally engaged included, as in previous years, the construction, maintenance and repair of prison and farm buildings, the preparation of lime in a private kiln, the care of the stud animals, the harvesting of crops, and general duties connected with the farm.

IX.—Communications.

RAILWAYS.

The Cyprus Government railway consists of a line running from the Port of Famagusta, at the north-eastern end of the Island, to Morphou, near its north-western extremity. It traverses the Central Messaoria plain, and passes through Nicosia,

the capital. From Morphou there is an extension into the foothills of Mount Troōdos to Evrykhōu, a village situated in the wide and fertile Solea valley at an altitude of 1,500 feet above sea level. The total length of line open for traffic is 76 miles.

A private line working as a branch of the Government railway runs from the Skouriotissa mines, situated in the Solea valley below Evrykhōu, down to the sea at Karavostassi, south of Morphou, where the Cyprus Mines Corporation has constructed a pier for the shipment of ore ; the length of this line is about 5 miles.

The results of the year's working in 1924 were more encouraging than in the years immediately preceding. For the first time since 1919–20 the gross expenditure, amounting to £23,548, a reduction of £3,482 on that for 1923, was less than the total revenue by £1,889. The gross earnings amounted to £25,437, an increase of £754 over the corresponding figures for 1923. This improvement is due to the greater volume of goods carried, consequent on the general improvement in local trade conditions, to the increased activity in mining operations, and also to the continuance of the policy of strict economy in working to which reference was made in the report for 1923. Passenger and parcels traffic receipts again showed a decrease, due to the keen competition experienced from road motor traffic.

As is but natural, the improvement in road communications and the resultant development in motor car services react unfavourably against the railway, and in all the circumstances it is satisfactory that it succeeded in paying its own way during the year. Such endeavours as were feasible were again made to stimulate import trade through the port of Famagusta and the total tonnage of goods which passed through the port showed an increase of over 3,000 tons, or 16 per cent., as compared with 1923.

The year under review was again free from accidents of any kind. Minor damage only was caused to the permanent way by floods on the upper section of the line, and breaks in the services were few and of short duration.

ROADS.

Cyprus is to be congratulated on the excellent roads which it possesses. Before the British occupation in 1878 there was only one road along which a carriage could be taken, namely, that connecting Nicosia and Larnaca, and this was neither metalled nor kept in proper repair. Now over 800 miles of good main and secondary roads are open to motor traffic throughout the year, and mechanical transport is possible between all the towns and principal villages. During the summer motor cars can travel over minor roads and tracks practically everywhere in the Island.

The existing system of main roads provides excellent communication for the ordinary purposes of life between all the principal towns and district centres ; it also offers extensive facilities for tourist traffic unrivalled, perhaps, in any neighbouring country. On landing at Famagusta the visitor to the Island will in all probability proceed first to Nicosia. His way lies through Larnaca (26 miles) on the south-east coast and thence turning north inland to Nicosia (a further 26 miles). From Larnaca the coast road continues round the Island, keeping for the most part close to the sea by Limassol (41 miles) to Paphos (47 miles) and Polis at the south-western extremity of Cyprus (25 miles) ; it is possible from Polis to go through to Karavostassi on the north-western coast (34½ miles) and thence either by Morphou (11 miles) over the end of the northern range of mountains at Myrtou (11 miles) to Kyrenia on the north coast (19 miles), or direct across the length of the Messaoria plain to Nicosia (35 miles). Kyrenia is distant 16 miles from Nicosia, with which it is joined by a road remarkable alike for its surface and its scenery. The circular tour of the seaboard of Cyprus, starting from Famagusta, including Kyrenia, and finishing at Larnaca, is 220 miles in length and can easily be accomplished in three days, with halts for the night at Paphos, and at Kyrenia or Nicosia. Except for a stretch of about 10 miles between Polis and Karavostassi, which is now under repair, the roads throughout are generally in good condition and an average speed of 20 miles an hour when actually travelling can comfortably be maintained.

A link road is at the present in course of construction from Kyrenia along the north coast through Ayios Ambrosios (20 miles) and Akanthou (11 miles) to Famagusta (32 miles) ; when this road is completed it will be possible to drive for 280 miles round the coasts of Cyprus in view of the sea for the greater part of the distance and through magnificent scenery of ever changing character.

The north-eastern extremity of the Island, or the Karpass peninsula, which has a peculiar beauty of its own, is most easily accessible from Famagusta whence a first class main road runs to Rizokarpass (52 miles) which is connected by a passable road of lower grade with the Apostolos Andreas monastery at the end of the peninsula (13 miles). On the return journey 13 miles from Famagusta a branch road leads through Triкомо (2½ miles), Lefkoniko (10½ miles), Kythraea (8 miles) to Nicosia (8 miles). The old main road from Nicosia to Famagusta direct (38 miles) through Asha and Vatili is not at present maintained in fit condition for motor traffic on account of its close proximity to the railway.

Nicosia is 53 miles distant from Limassol and is connected therewith by a road which joins the Larnaca-Limassol road at Kophinou (26 miles). This road runs through some delightful moorland scenery and passes near the foot of the famous Stavrovouni hill on which stands one of the oldest manasteries in Cyprus

Owing to the enterprise of the Abbot a road, perilous but practicable, has been recently opened to the summit from a point on the main road near Korno (4 miles). Another road of recent construction leaves the main road at the eighteenth milestone and goes through the village of Korno (1 mile) inland to the important hill village of Lefkara (11 miles); from Lefkara the descent can be made to Skarinou about half-way on the road from Nicosia to Limassol (7 miles), but this road is difficult and tedious.

It has been stated in an earlier chapter of this report that the great central range of mountains divides Cyprus in twain from west to east. On the highest part of the range at an altitude of 6,000 ft. is situated the hill station of Mount Troōdos to which the seat of Government is transferred during the summer months and where an hotel and a camp are kept open for the reception of visitors both local and from abroad. There is also a pleasantly situated games club run under the supervision of the Government. Mount Troōdos is reached either from Famagusta via Nicosia, a total distance of 102 miles, or from Limassol via Platraes (31½ miles) on the southern slope which at an altitude of 3,500 ft. is a flourishing holiday resort, very popular with visitors from Egypt, and distant five miles from Mount Troōdos. The mountain scenery varied with pine forests and perennial streams give to Mount Troōdos and the vicinity a charm reminiscent of Switzerland. The roads provide every opportunity for safe motoring at considerable altitudes through the most beautiful country. From Platraes a continuation of the Limassol road leads over the saddle at Prodomos (10 miles) to Pedoulas (3½ miles) in the prosperous Marathassa valley on the northern side of the range. From Pedoulas the road descends to Lefka (15 miles) and thence to Nicosia (33 miles) by the main Nicosia-Troōdos road which is joined 25 miles out from Nicosia. The drives from Platraes to Pedoulas, from Platraes to Troōdos, and from Troōdos to Amaindos (5 miles) and Evrykhon (17 miles) may be set down as amongst the most magnificent in the Island.

On the southern side of the great dividing range besides the direct road from Mount Troōdos to Limassol a good road runs through the heart of the wine-producing villages of the Limassol district from Mandria, two miles from Platraes on the Limassol-Platraes road, to Omodhos (3½ miles), and Ayios Ambrosios (7½ miles) to Erimi bridge (10 miles) on the Limassol-Paphos main circular road.

There is also a road from Mandria direct via Ayios Nicola and the Mamonia valley to Paphos (37 miles). This road, however, has been impassable for the past four years by reason of a violent flood in 1920 which destroyed the series of bridges crossing the Diarizos river at Kithasi. It is hoped that by the end of 1925 this road will have been completely repaired and made suitable for motor traffic.

The routes outlined above comprise almost entirely roads of the first grade maintained in good condition over which motoring is feasible all the year round with ease and pleasure. Adventurous motorists can, however, find many other routes deserving of exploration, it being practicable during the dry season to take a light car of high clearance almost anywhere in Cyprus where a road or track exists.

A map is appended to illustrate the relative position of the roads and places to which reference has been made.

POSTAL.

Foreign Mails.

There is a regular subsidised mail service between Cyprus and Egypt. Under their contract with the Government, renewed for a further period of five years as from the 1st January, 1921, the Khedivial Steamship Company maintain sailings three times a month between Alexandria and Port Said and the ports of Famagusta, Larnaca, and Limassol. The time taken in transit by mails from the United Kingdom averages from a week to ten days. A sea post office works on board the mail steamer, greatly expediting the sorting and delivery of the incoming mails. During the year the Post Office received 4,787 inward mail bags, and despatched 808 outward mail bags, an increase of 175 and 62 bags respectively, as compared with the figures for the previous year.

Mails for Syria and Turkey were despatched at weekly and fortnightly intervals, respectively, and were received regularly at inverse periods. The mails were carried by steamers of the Lloyd Triestino and Servizi Marittimi Companies; 410 bags and packets were despatched and 321 were received, showing a total increase of 98 bags and packets on the figures for 1923.

Internal Posts.

The daily motor mail services carried out under contract between the various towns of the Island were again efficiently performed during the year, and the branch post sections to the villages were well maintained. Ten new mail sections were established serving thirty villages, and in addition fourteen villages which had not hitherto enjoyed a regular mail service were included in the itinerary of existing mail routes. The present condition of internal postal communication may be regarded as highly satisfactory and every endeavour continues to be made to extend facilities so far as is practicable even in the most remote districts. The estimated number of miles travelled in the conveyance of inland mails during the year is 342,000, an increase of 12,000 miles as compared with the previous year.

Six district post offices, seven sub-offices, an increase of one on those open in 1923, and three branch offices, working during the summer months only, as well as 397 postal agencies, an increase

of 33, were in operation during the year. Postal order business was transacted at thirty-five offices. The house-to-house delivery of correspondence inaugurated at Paphos in 1923 was introduced at Limassol and at Nicosia. The facility thus afforded is much appreciated by the public, and only two cases of misdelivery of correspondence were brought to notice, a circumstance which can be regarded as most creditable when it is considered that the mail officers employed had had no previous experience of this particular duty.

Fiscal Changes.

Stamps superscribed "Postage and Revenue" were introduced on the 1st of August, 1924, to replace the separate issues which had previously been used for postal and revenue purposes. Except for the superscription the stamps were printed in the size and design of the old series, but with certain modifications in the colour scheme. The single series consists of sixteen denominations ranging from $\frac{1}{4}$ piastre to £1. Stamps and stamped stationery sold during the year amounted to £32,726; sales to philatelists realised £3,897, an increase of £1,712 as compared with the figures for 1923.

Statistics.

The total number of articles dealt with by the local post office was 2,967,311, a decrease of 311,944 as compared with 1923; 2,228,661 articles were posted in the Island, a decrease of 199,789, and 738,650 articles were received from abroad, a decrease of 112,155. Correspondence for local delivery shows a decrease of 170,420 items, while that posted for abroad was also slightly reduced, despatches to the United Kingdom being less by about 25 per cent. than those for the previous year. It is not easy to account for this decrease, except that the reduction under inland correspondence handled by the Postal Department may be due to the improvement of internal communications and to the increased facilities for personal transaction of business.

Parcels.

The total number of parcels posted numbered 18,428 and those delivered 37,517, representing decreases of 1,902 and 5,388 respectively on the 1923 figures. Parcels posted for delivery in Cyprus showed a decrease of 1,790, and those posted for delivery abroad a decrease of 112. The estimated value of merchandise exported by parcel post was upwards of £20,000, or an increase of over £5,000 on the figures for 1923; the principal articles exported in this way were, as previously, Lefkara lace and embroidery, cigarettes, and silk and cotton piece-goods.

Parcels received from overseas totalled 25,385, or 3,598 less than in 1923, to a value of £70,000, as against £96,000. The cash-on-delivery system was again in operation during the year, though some decrease in the traffic handled is to be recorded in the case of parcels for delivery. One unsatisfactory feature of this service is the large number of parcels which have had to be returned as undeliverable. In many cases the consignees decline to accept delivery either because the necessary funds fail to materialise, or because a speculative order appears no longer profitable.

General.

The year in general was satisfactory and free from any event calling for special notice. Owing to the practice which has been adopted of crediting all receipts from the sale of the combined postage and revenue stamp under one head it is not possible to give actual figures of earnings and expenditure. The latter was, however, decreased by £1,180, and there is no doubt but that the Postal Department continued to show a clear profit on the year's working. It is interesting to note that the correspondence exchanged with Turkey and Germany again recorded an increase.

TELEGRAPHS.

The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a telegraph cable between Larnaca and Alexandria, and land telegraphs between the six principal towns of the Island. During the summer season Platraes and Mount Troödos are connected with the system. The only Government telegraph is a line along the railway from Famagusta to Morphou and Evrykhou.

TELEPHONES.

There are small telephone exchanges, connecting the various Government offices and the residences of certain Government officials, at Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnaca, and, during the summer season, at Troödos. Trunk lines connect Troödos with various stations on the railway, and through the central exchange at Nicosia with Famagusta and Larnaca. Lines have also been added connecting Famagusta with Cape Andrea and Cape Greco. Telephones have assumed an importance in the conduct of Government business, but it has not yet been practicable to establish a system for the use of the general public.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

In addition to the Khedivial Steamship Company, which, as above mentioned, maintains a service of mail steamers under contract with the Government between Cyprus and Egypt, the Lloyd Triestino Company maintains a service of passenger

steamers which visit Larnaca and Limassol about four a month on an itinerary which includes Egypt, the Syrian Cyprus, Constantinople, the Piraeus, Venice, and Steamers of the Societa Italiana di Servizi Marittimi visit at regular intervals on an itinerary similar to that followed by the Lloyd-Triestino vessels, except that their home port is Genoa. Cargo steamers of the Moss Line call at regular intervals. Steamers of the Prince Line are occasional visitors, plying cargo from England, Egypt, and Syria to Cyprus. Vessels of the Messageries Maritimes also call at Cyprus at intervals of about a month, and there are direct sailings by Greek steamers at frequent but irregular intervals to the Piraeus.

Communication with abroad, either by aeroplane or by telegraphy, has not yet been established.

Railways
Main R.
Secondary
Telegraph
Boundary



4 3 2 1 0

<i>Railways</i>	—————
<i>Main Roads</i>	—————
<i>Secondary Roads</i>	- - - - -
<i>Telegraph Lines</i>	- - - - -
<i>Boundaries of Districts</i>	- - - - -
" " <i>Sub-districts</i>

" " *Sub-districts*

Non —

2 -

Páno —

Kato —

Aria } -
Arios }

Heights in Engl

Christian villages are
Moslem

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ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1923
1228	Hongkong	"
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1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States.. .. .	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
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1242	Falkland Islands.. .. .	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	"
1252	Ashanti	1923-1924

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-Seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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Other Reports of great interest on Colonial affairs are issued from time to time, such as the reports of the Colonial Research Committee, 1923, 6d.; of the Colonial Survey Committee (1914-1923), 2s. 6d.; and of the Imperial Mycological Conference, 1924, 9d.

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No. 1254.

ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1209.)



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No. 1254.

ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924.*

I.—Geographical and Historical.

The Island of Zanzibar is situated in 6° S. latitude and is separated from the mainland by a channel 22½ miles across at its narrowest part. It is the largest coralline island on the African coast, being 53 miles long by 24 broad (maximum measurements) and having an area of 640 square miles.

To the north-east, at a distance of some 25 miles, lies the island of Pemba in 5° S. latitude. It is smaller than Zanzibar, being 42 miles long by about 14 broad (maximum measurements) and having an area of 380 square miles.

In the year 1890 the supremacy of British interests in the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba was recognized by France and Germany, and they were declared a British Protectorate in accordance with conventions by which Great Britain waived all claims to Madagascar in favour of France and ceded Heligoland to Germany.

In 1891 a regular Government was constituted with a British Representative as First Minister. In 1906 the Imperial Government assumed more direct control over the Protectorate and reorganized the Government. In 1911 Seyyid Ali abdicated the throne and was succeeded by the present ruler, Seyyid Khalifa bin Harub, K.C.M.G., K.B.E. On 1st July, 1913, the control of the Protectorate was transferred from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office, legal effect being given to the change of administration on 1st July of the following year.

II.—General Observations.

Mr. A. C. Hollis, C.M.G., C.B.E., assumed the functions of British Resident in Zanzibar on 24th January.

Mr. E. Costley-White proceeded on leave of absence on 10th April and Mr. C. D. Wallis, M.B.E., acted as Chief Secretary until 5th September, when Mr. J. T. Gilbert assumed the duties until the return from leave of Mr. R. H. Crofton on 17th October.

His Majesty's battle cruisers "Hood" and "Repulse" of the Special Service Squadron, under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field, K.C.B., C.M.G., arrived at Zanzibar on 12th January. The Squadron was accorded an enthusiastic reception by all classes of the community and people from the

* Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 843 [Cd. 7622-34].

most distant villages travelled to Zanzibar to see the largest warship in the world. A Naval Brigade, some 1,000 strong, of sailors and marines from the cruisers, marched through the town ending at the Bet-el-Ajaib (Government offices), where His Highness the Sultan took the salute at the head of the steps.

After a memorable visit, the Squadron left on 17th January, being led out to sea by His Highness the Sultan on board H.H.S. "Khalifa."

His Excellency the High Commissioner, Sir Robert T. Coryndon, K.C.M.G., paid an official visit to Zanzibar in July, arriving on the 8th and returning to Kenya from Pemba on the 18th.

Zanzibar participated in the British Empire Exhibition, and in the court allotted to the Protectorate a display was staged which gave a comprehensive idea of the natural resources of the Protectorate, its history and the life of the inhabitants. The principal features of the court were a panorama of one of the Government shambas (plantations) with a drying ground in front on which cloves were laid out on mats. Coconuts and the produce of the coconut palm and the other agricultural products of the Protectorate were also shown.

The life and industries of the people were thrown into relief by a large exhibit of articles in wood, matting work, iron and pottery; of native clothes, games and musical instruments, and of the magic which is prevalent in the Protectorate.

Life-size portraits of His Highness the Sultan, and of one of his predecessors, Seyyid Barghash (1870–1888), were hung in the Court, and the history, architecture and industries of Zanzibar and Pemba were illustrated by a comprehensive series of photographs. Over the three doors the red flag of Zanzibar, crossed with those of Persia, Portugal and Great Britain, respectively, symbolized the country's association at various periods with those powers.

The Local Committee published a book, containing the results of much original research, not hitherto published, together with a comprehensive bibliography entitled, "Zanzibar: An Account of its People, Industries and History."

In August a census of the native population was taken and revealed a total Arab and native population of 202,665, as compared with 188,212 in 1910.

These figures, taken in conjunction with the non-native census carried out in 1921, 14,125 against 8,987 in 1910, give a total population of 216,790 compared with 197,179 in 1910.

Mr. F. C. Linfield, M.P., and Mr. J. A. Calder, two of the members of the East Africa Commission appointed by the Colonial

Office, visited Zanzibar on 26th September, returning to Dar-es-Salaam on the 28th. During their short stay the Commissioners received deputations from the Chamber of Commerce, the Arab Association and the Indian National Association, and visited various institutions and places of interest.

The Peace Memorial building was completed during the year and is now in course of organization as a museum, with five principal sections representing Natural History and Geology, Historical, Agriculture, Native Industries, and Public Health.

Retirements from the Government service during the year included Mr. J. H. Sinclair, C.M.G., C.B.E., British Resident; Captain G. E. Smith, Commandant of Police; Dr. J. S. de Souza, Senior Medical Officer; and Dr. H. Waller, temporary Medical Officer.

III.—Government Finance.

(i) REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following table shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Protectorate for the last five years :—

					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					<i>Thousands.</i>	<i>Thousands.</i>
					£	£
1920	..	..	..	..	330	404
1921	..	..	..	..	456	385
1922	..	..	..	..	426	509
1923	..	..	..	..	589	480
1924	..	..	..	..	493	452

(ii) TAXATION.

No new taxation was imposed during the year.

(iii) CURRENCY.

The silver rupee of British India, of the standard weight and fineness enacted in the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, is the standard coin of the Protectorate.

All other silver coins of British India of the standard weight and fineness enacted in the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, are legal tender for the payment of an amount not exceeding Rs.5.

Seyyidieh copper pice are legal tender at the rate of 64 pice to one rupee for the payment of an amount not exceeding one rupee.

There is a Government note issue of the denominations, Rs.5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500. The value of notes in circulation on 31st December amounted to Rs.48,54,000. The security held against the issue consists of cash to the approximate sum of 60 per cent. and of Colonial and Indian Government securities to the approximate amount of 40 per cent. of the value of notes in circulation.

(iv) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

	<i>Thousands.</i>
	<i>£</i>
Balance of assets on 31st December, 1923 ..	599
Surplus, 1924	41
Balance of assets on 31st December, 1924 ..	640
Loan to Kenya Colony and Protectorate ..	200

(v) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt amounts to £100,000 in 3 per cent. debentures, which were issued to the British public in 1899 under authority of the Loan Decree, 1899. Two-and-a-third per cent. of the nominal value of the issue is appropriated annually from general revenues to a sinking fund for the extinction of the debt. The amount at the credit of the sinking fund on 31st December was £87,568, which is principally invested in Colonial Government securities.

IV.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

(i) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

During the year under review, the foreign trade of the Protectorate amounted to 124,220 tons weight, valued at Rs.6,01,20,000, representing a decrease of 1·2 per cent. in weight and 5·1 per cent. in value, as compared with the previous year.

The total imports (including trans-shipment goods, bullion and specie, and goods imported on Government account) amounted to 81,815 tons weight valued at Rs.2,96,43,000, being a decrease of 1 per cent. in weight and an increase of 1·7 per cent. in value, as compared with 1923.

The total exports (including trans-shipment goods, re-exports and bullion and specie) amounted to 42,405 tons weight, valued at Rs.3,04,77,000, being a decrease of 1·6 per cent. in weight and 10·9 per cent. in value.

The reduction in exports is accounted for by a decrease in the quantity and value of cloves exported during the year.

Balance of Trade.

The excess of exports over imports (excluding silver coin) for the year 1924 is Rs.29,92,083 as against Rs.50,61,411 for 1923.

The following figures show the balance of trade represented by the difference between imports and exports for the quinquennial period 1920–1924.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Excess of Exports over Imports.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
	<i>Rs.000s.</i>	<i>Rs.000s.</i>	<i>Rs.000s.</i>	
1920 ..	3,01,12	2,73,81	27,31	9·97
1921 ..	3,24,64	3,22,33	2,31	0·71
1922 ..	3,04,15	2,84,04	20,11	7·08
1923 ..	3,42,06	2,91,45	50,61	17·36
1924* ..	2,91,11	2,61,19	29,92	11·45

* Figures for 1924 are exclusive of silver coins.

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table :—

<i>Countries.</i>	<i>Imports therefrom.</i>	<i>Exports thereto.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Trade.</i>	
	<i>Rs.000s.</i>	<i>Rs.000s.</i>	<i>Rs.000s.</i>	<i>1923.</i>	<i>1924.</i>
India and Burma	1,08,96	79,25	1,88,21	21·42	31·30
Tanganyika Ter- ritory.	36,86	51,95	88,81	16·49	14·77
United Kingdom	51,55	32,37	83,92	22·47	13·95
France	2,25	48,47	50,73	7·03	8·43
United States of America.	5,47	23,91	29,39	4·70	4·88
Kenya Colony ..	11,06	14,93	25,99	6·21	4·32
Holland	9,56	7,30	16,86	3·94	2·80
Germany	7,56	8,46	16,02	3·23	2·66
Japan	13,32	91	14,23	1·90	2·36
Italy	1,29	12,01	13,30	1·70	2·21
Java	13,22	—	13,22	1·90	2·19

Note.—The percentages of trade with India and Burma, Kenya Colony, and Tanganyika Territory, have been affected by stricter insistence during 1924 on the correct declaration of the country of origin.

Trade Prospects.

Owing to the influence of the clove harvest on trade, it is impossible to give a dependable forecast of this year's trade prospects, but given an average crop there is no reason to anticipate any considerable change in the trade of 1925 from that of the year under review.

(ii) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The question of working expenses on clove and coconut plantations received some attention, and in the island of Zanzibar plantation owners came to an agreement about rates of pay for piecework weeding. The new rates, although very high compared with those ruling on the mainland, have resulted in a quite considerable reduction in working expenses. The Government plantations were the first to apply the new scales and the Arabs have loyally supported the arrangement. A few difficulties arose with labour at first, but as objectors were promptly replaced, the movement soon came to an end. The position at present is that labourers can earn twice the pay they receive on the mainland for approximately half the amount of work. As the islands are dependent upon the free immigration of labour from the mainland, it is inevitable that rates of pay must be higher in Zanzibar in order to attract labourers to these shores.

Cloves.

The season of harvesting was on the whole very satisfactory. The early prognostication of a six lakh crop (600,000 frassas) proved to be rather on the under side though exact figures are not available. It is probable that the crop exceeded seven lakhs. The picking was unusually well done and labour moved freely from district to district as the season advanced. Free passages on the Government steamers were given to bona fide pickers and this undoubtedly helped very greatly. The rates of pay advanced from six pice to ten pice a pishi (6½ lb.) in Zanzibar, whilst in Pemba it was not uncommon to find sixteen pice a pishi together with a ration of rice being given.

It is difficult to see how many owners make a profit from clove growing in Pemba when their high rates of pay for weeding and harvesting and heavy transport expenses are considered, together with the fact that Pemba cloves are commonly about a rupee per frassa below the price of Zanzibar cloves. The condition of many of the plantations in Pemba reflects this unprofitableness.

Compared with the previous season—July, 1923, to June, 1924—and with the average of the past twenty seasons, the season under review was a good one as will be seen from the following figures :—

1923–1924	311,794 frassas.
1924–1925	over 700,000 ..
Average of 20 years	512,597 ..

Prices were good, particularly in the first half of the year, when Rs.25–26 ruled for Zanzibar cloves. When the new cloves came in there was a drop to Rs.20–21. The average for the whole year was Rs.23 per frassa.

One of the principal activities of the Department of Agriculture was the collection of statistics relative to the number of clove trees and coconut palms on the plantations of the two islands, and registration of these particulars. The bonus on clove trees (a rebate on the clove duty) was made on the basis of this registration and a sum of Rs.3,71,674 was distributed. It is certain that a number of plantation owners have not yet registered their clove trees and are therefore losing the bonus of Rs.1.50 per ten trees which Government is paying. Late returns are still being received, particularly in Pemba, and it will be some time before the registration is complete.

The average age of the clove trees in the Protectorate—particularly in Pemba—is much higher than it should be owing to the failure systematically to replant. There are not sufficient young trees to maintain indefinitely the present output of cloves. The really suitable land in both islands has long ago been put under cloves and regeneration of these areas is therefore the only means

of maintaining the supply. So far, filling in the gaps caused by deaths, is the only method in operation. The trees being normally planted at an average distance of 21 ft. apart, the gapping system is not entirely satisfactory, as the young trees are too overshadowed by the old ones, and have a tendency to become lanky in consequence. A bonus amounting to Rs.3 per tree, given in instalments over six years, is paid to plantation owners who raise young trees under approved conditions, each tree being inspected and sealed on three occasions during the period. During 1924 the number of one-year-old plants approved for bonus and sealed amounted to 23,247, and the amount given in bonus in respect of these and the previous year's plantings amounted to Rs.47,159.

Copra.

The export of copra during the year reached the record figure of 988,393 fraslas, the average for the previous ten years being 534,191 fraslas and the previous record being 907,329 fraslas in 1919, when the restoration of shipping facilities enabled a large hold-over to be exported.

The quality of copra produced in the islands is generally poor. The climate makes sun-drying difficult, if not impossible, during several months of the year and the fire-drying practised is of the crudest description.

The Department of Agriculture has instituted a copra factory at Mtoni, about four miles out of town, for demonstration purposes. The copra here is made from the nuts on the adjacent Government plantations, which carry about 22,000 palms. The price realised at the sales in town has been several annas per frasla above local prices, but it is probable that a greater premium would be obtained overseas for the quality produced. The local market will only improve when the general quality of copra has been raised.

V.—Legislation.

Of the twenty decrees which received His Highness' signature during 1924, seven were new enactments, whilst the remaining thirteen amended previous legislation.

There was no legislation during 1924 of an entirely new description, but existing laws have been elaborated and brought more into line with the latter-day requirements of the Protectorate.

VI.—Education.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

Post-Primary.

The Teachers Training School and the Commercial School, both inaugurated in 1923, continued their work throughout 1924.

To the former, new students are admitted each year: the number of admissions in 1924 was seven. An Indian graduate was added to the staff.

A certain amount of teaching practice is included in the syllabus for the second year and will be continued throughout the third and final year of study. Trips to the country for the purpose of studying the causes of tropical diseases were arranged, the object being to equip native teachers with a practical knowledge of preventive measures so that they may be in a position to render assistance in future campaigns against disease.

At the Commercial School, 18 students (16 Indians, 2 Arabs) were in attendance at the close of the year. The course ends in March, 1925, when it is estimated that eight students will be available for Government service if required. The progress of the students, as a whole, has been remarkably good and a thorough grounding in business principles and in office practice including typewriting, care of the typewriter, and shorthand, has been given. It is hoped that these locally-trained youths will make their mark in the official and commercial life of the Protectorate.

Primary and Elementary.

In the Government Central School the chief feature of 1924 has been the addition of infant classes and the enrolment of pupils at an early age. The progress of these classes is most encouraging.

The number of district schools has been increased from four to seven and, wherever possible, teaching in agriculture has been added to the syllabus. The three new schools were opened in the latter portion of the year.

Attendance at all the schools was maintained at a very satisfactory level.

Vocational Training.

The technical department of the Central School has been taken over by the new European Superintendent of Industries and is in course of reorganization and extension. The classes are housed in new and commodious sheds.

Indian Schools.

(1) The state-aided Sir Euan Smith Madressa not only recovered from the set-back of 1923, but established a record in the number on roll (416). This was due to the facts that the National School dropped out of existence and that the Memon School transferred its pupils to the Madressa.

(2) The attendance at the chief community schools has increased.

An application for a grant-in-aid was made by the Shia Ismailia Aga Khan community and negotiations were in progress at the close of the year.

Mission Schools.

There have been many changes in the district schools under the missions and marked activity has been shown in the district work of the Society of the Holy Ghost.

Female Education.

This continues as before. It is confined to Indian schools and the missions.

Evening Classes.

The Police, Health Office and Dr. Spurrier's evening classes continued to do good work, though attendance at the first-mentioned was low owing to the exigencies of the police service, which necessitated constant changes in the location of its personnel.

Boy Scouts.

Two camps were held for the members of the school troop, and the spirit shown by the boys both at camp and in their ordinary scout work was excellent. Their help at fires in the native quarter was prompt and valuable.

Phelps-Stokes Education Commission to East Africa.

A short visit was paid by Dr. Jesse Jones, Mr. Shantz, Mr. Dougall and Dr. Aggrey, while Mr. Vischer (of the Colonial Office Advisory Committee) made a longer stay and prosecuted a detailed enquiry into educational conditions.

VII.—Communications.

SHIPPING.

The total number of ocean-going vessels which called at Zanzibar during the year 1924 was 283, representing a total net registered tonnage of 930,628, an increase over the previous year of seven vessels or 70,687 net registered tons.

The number of coasting vessels entered and cleared during the year 1924 was 173, with a total net registered tonnage of 46,743, compared with 205 vessels with a net registered tonnage of 56,806, in the year 1923.

During the year 1924, 5,041 dhows entered the port, having an aggregate tonnage of 91,253, compared with 5,042 dhows of 95,864 tons which entered in 1923.

A monthly service to and from London has been maintained jointly by the Union Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited, and the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited.

Steamers of the Clan-Ellerman-Harrison Line call at Zanzibar monthly (irregular service).

A fortnightly service between Marseilles and Madagascar has been maintained by the Messageries Maritimes.

A three-weekly service of passenger and cargo steamers between Zanzibar and Genoa has been maintained by the Italia Societa di Navigazione.

The United Netherlands Navigation Company provides a good service of cargo and passenger steamers on their Holland East African Line.

A monthly service of passenger steamers to Southampton and Hamburg is kept up by the Deutsche-Ost-Afrika Line.

The British Indian Steam Navigation Company's m.v. "Dumra" runs a coasting service from Zanzibar to Kismayu and Mikindani.

The Zanzibar Government steamers maintain a regular weekly service to Pemba and Dar-es-Salaam.

Messrs. Cowasji Dinshaw and Brothers carry on a regular coasting service from Zanzibar to Kismayu.

(ii) ROADS AND BRIDGES.

A sum of £7,243 was expended on the maintenance of roads and bridges in the Protectorate.

The construction of a new steel lattice girder bridge, estimated to cost £4,500, was commenced over Kipange River, to replace the present suspension bridge. The bridge will carry a live load of 12 tons. The expenditure up to 31st December was £2,270.

Three thousand nine hundred and ninety linear feet of new road was constructed in Zanzibar town at a cost of £1,983.

In Pemba the road contractor threw up his contract on 31st May. The work has since been carried on departmentally. Construction from Chake Chake to Wesha was continued.

(iii) POSTAL.

During the year 1924, 436 vessels arrived and 466 sailed with mails, compared with 488 and 480 respectively for the previous year.

A comparative statement of articles dealt with in 1923 and 1924 is given below and shows an increase of 47,903 for the year under review :—

				1923.	1924.
Foreign	..	..	..	780,290	825,412
Inland	..	..	..	100,189	101,733
Transit	..	..	..	24,549	25,786
Total	..	..		905,028	952,931

VIII.—Public Works.

Maintenance of various recurrent services cost £26,574.

Expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary amounted to £92,954 made up as follows :—

	£
New buildings	30,045
Roads and bridges	25,471
Water supply and drainage	1,118
Harbour works	25,945
Surveys	1,854
Miscellaneous minor works	6,213
Acquisition of land	2,308
Total	<u>£92,954</u>

The sum of £6,164 was spent on the maintenance of buildings.

The most important new buildings constructed were :—

New Schools—	£
Central Hall completed and second block of class rooms half completed ..	8,074
House for European official—completed ..	2,534
Reorganization of Police Lines at Ziwani (1 block serjeant-major's quarters, 1 block for 22 and 3 blocks for 16 askaris) —completed, and one latrine	6,079
Oil storage godown at Mtoni—completed	2,241
Residency dining room and reconstruction	2,024
Peace Memorial—completed	998
Alterations to old European Hospital, to provide 3 flats for officials	3,226

WATER SUPPLY.

The cost of maintenance of the supplies in Zanzibar, Weti and Chake Chake was £1,000. Revenue obtained from the Zanzibar supply amounted to £2,392.

The supplies continue satisfactory. Pollution occurred in the Bububu supply after the heavy rains in April. Measures were taken to rectify this and provision has been made to take any further measures that may be necessary.

SURVEYS.

The cadastral survey of Zanzibar town was continued and fair progress made. £1,416 was spent under this head, bringing up the total to £5,080.

Progress was delayed chiefly through shortage of staff due to leave and resignation, and to other urgent surveys being undertaken for land acquisition in Pemba and Zanzibar.

Four hundred and forty-two pounds was expended on the topographical survey of Zanzibar, the expenses being chiefly incurred by the Senior Surveyor, who visited the mainland for the purpose of linking up the survey with that of the mainland.

THE HARBOUR WORKS.

In January, owing to the submission of supplementary estimates involving heavy additional expenditure, it became necessary to reconsider the original scheme in the light of the productive capacity, trade and financial resources of the Protectorate and in the light of the work already done. Pile-driving on the wharf at a length of 800 ft. was accordingly stopped, work generally was brought to a standstill and the whole position was reported to the Secretary of State for expert advice. In March, Messrs. Coode, Fitzmaurice, Wilson and Mitchell, of Westminster, were appointed Consulting Engineers. In November, Mr. Mitchell, a partner in the firm, visited Zanzibar and after prolonged inspection of the works and consultation with all the interests concerned submitted a report in which the principal recommendations were :—

- (1) That the whole length (800 ft.) of the western face of the wharf should be available for lighters at all states of the tide.
- (2) That there should be sufficient space on the reclaimed area for normal harbour operations.
- (3) That there should be facilities for dhow landing and that in the case of coastwise dhow cargo this should be distinct from the facilities for foreign cargo.
- (4) That there should be an area, contiguous to, but distinct from, the Customs area, on which warehouses can be built for leasing to merchants. This area should be so sited that it may be easily extended as the demand for warehouse accommodation increases.

These proposals, which involved additional expenditure amounting to £182,000, were sanctioned by the Secretary of State and work was begun forthwith. The total cost of completion and equipment of wharf and reclamation is now estimated at approximately £400,000.

IX.—Meteorology.

Meteorological observations are taken at six different stations in Zanzibar Island and at three stations in Pemba. Only rain records are, however, taken at the stations other than Zanzibar Town and Banani in Pemba.

The rainfall at the various recording stations was as follows :—

Zanzibar.

					Inches.
Zanzibar Town	..	..	..	..	53·05
Mkokotoni	..	..	..	..	66·22
Selem	..	..	..	..	58·80
Kidichi	..	..	..	..	60·46
Koani	..	..	..	..	82·67
Chwaka	..	..	..	..	51·85

Pemba.

Banani	..	..	..	..	75·16
Weti	..	..	..	..	92·08
Kigomasha	..	..	..	..	67·14

The rainy seasons in Zanzibar are well defined ; the heavy rains occur in April, previous to the setting in of the south-west monsoon, the light rains in November and December before the recurrence of the north-east monsoon, but throughout the year there are light rains in the islands. In the town of Zanzibar, in 1924, it rained on 146 days and in Banani in Pemba on 199 days. The maximum rainfall on any one day during the year was in Zanzibar Town, of 2·83 in. on 13th April, and at Banani 2·78 in. on 15th March ; the highest record for any one month was in Zanzibar Town, 15·65 inches in April, and at Banani, 19·43 inches in the same month.

The mean and absolute minimum and maximum temperature at the two recording stations were as follows :—

	Mean.		Absolute.	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Zanzibar Town	76·6	84·9	69·3	91·7
Banani ..	77·0	86·1	70·0	92·0

E. COSTLEY-WHITE,

Chief Secretary to the Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1923
1228	Hongkong	1923-1924
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1914-1923
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923-1924
1232	Leeward Islands	1923
1233	Federated Malay States	"
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	1923-1924
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923
1238	Brunei	"
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	1924
1241	Bahamas	1923
1242	Falkland Islands	"
1243	Ceylon	1924
1244	Basutoland	"
1245	Nigeria	1923-1924
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923
1247	Bermuda	1924
1248	Weihaiwei	"
1249	Gambia	"
1250	Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	1923-1924
1252	Ashanti	1924
1253	Cyprus	

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1255.

GOLD COAST.

REPORT FOR 1923-24.

(For Report for 1922-1923 see No. 1207.)



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I.—GENERAL.

Administration.

The Government of the Colony was administered during the Financial Year by Dr. J. C. Maxwell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, from 2nd April, 1923, to 17th August, 1923; and by Mr. A. J. Philbrick, C.B.E., Chief Commissioner of the Northern Territories from the 18th August, 1923, to 1st October, 1923; The Governor and Commander in Chief, Brigadier General Sir F. Gordon Guggisberg, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., returned from leave on the 2nd October, 1923, and resumed the administration of the Government until the 30th March, 1924.

Honours.

Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George was conferred by His Majesty the King upon Dr. David Alexander, Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

His Majesty the King approved of the following appointments:—

Arthur James Philbrick, Esquire, Chief Commissioner of the Northern Territories as a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Division.

Dr. Benjamin William Quartey-Papafio, M.D., Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Division.

Appointments.

The following appointments were made during the financial year:—

Mr. John Maxwell, C.M.G., Secretary for Native Affairs, was promoted to be Chief Commissioner of Ashanti; vice Mr. C. H. Harper, C.M.G., O.B.E., retired.

Mr. C. W. Welman, Deputy Secretary for Native Affairs, was promoted to be Secretary for Native Affairs.

Mr. William Plunkett Michelin was appointed Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. H. E. G. Bartlett, Deputy Provincial Commissioner, was promoted to be Provincial Commissioner; vice Mr. H. B. Popham retired.

Mr. E. H. Bleasdel was promoted to be Deputy Provincial Commissioner.

Mr. L. A. King-Church, Deputy Conservator of Forests, was promoted to be Conservator of Forests.

Captain A. W. Norris, District Commissioner, was promoted to be Deputy Provincial Commissioner.

Mr. A. F. J. McMullin, Senior Collector of Customs, was promoted to be Provincial Collector of Customs, vice Mr. H. D. France retired.

Mr. S. R. Messum, Senior Collector of Customs, was promoted to be Provincial Collector of Customs.

Obituary.

The following deaths occurred during the financial year:—

1. Mr. Robert Charles Stanser Bowker, Assistant District Commissioner.
2. Mr. Cecil Douglas Trotter, District Commissioner.
3. Captain Denis Joseph Fitzgerald O'Donoghue, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.T.M., R.A.M.C., (Res.) Medical Officer of Health.
4. Mr. Sidney Gavine, Senior Hydraulic Engineer, Public Works Department.
5. Mr. Francis John Hanney, Foreman of Works, Public Works Department.
6. Mr. William Peddie McLaren, Foreman of Works, Government Railways.
7. Mr. John Thomas Tillotson, District Traffic Officer, Government Railways.
8. Mr. John Herbert O'Callaghan, Telegraph Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs Department.
9. Mr. Herbert Bates Dalton, Surveyor, Survey Department.
10. Mr. Douglas Talbot Dawson, Late District Surveyor, Posts and Telegraphs Department (Pensioner).
11. Mr. John Williams, Late District Postmaster (Pensioner).
12. Mr. Joseph Abraham Cullip, Late Locomotive Driver (Pensioner).
13. Major Reginald Edward Firminger, Late Inspector, Gold Coast Constabulary (Pensioner).

Establishment.

The European establishment of the Colony and its Dependencies during the financial year was 994.

Gold Coast Regiment.

The military forces of the Colony consist of the Gold Coast Regiment, West African Frontier Force. The Regiment is recruited from the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, and is officered by Officers seconded from the Imperial Army.

II.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year amounted to £3,742,834 being the highest on record in the history of the Colony.

The following table affords a more detailed comparison between 1922—1923 and 1923—24 :—

Head of Revenue.	1922—23.	1923—24.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	2,035,359	2,154,707	119,348	—
2. Light Dues	2,893	3,645	752	—
3. Licences	78,325	87,884	9,559	—
4. Fees of Court, etc.	148,218	139,478	—	8,740
5. Railways	892,115	1,011,744	119,629	—
6. Posts & Telegraphs	68,624	73,572	4,948	—
7. Rent of Govt Lands	9,918	9,432	—	486
8. Interest	72,241	48,728	—	23,513
9. Miscellaneous	49,271	143,638	94,367	—
10. Land Sales	232	6	—	226
Investment Depreciation Account	—	70,000	70,000	—
	3,357,196	3,742,834	418,603	32,965

Net Increase £385,638.

Customs and Railway Receipts continue to be the chief sources of Revenue, and the following table shows how large a proportion is due to Customs receipts :—

Year.	CUSTOMS.		RAILWAYS.		OTHER SOURCES.	
	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue.	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue.	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue.
	£		£		£	
1913 ..	779,593	60	357,329	27	164,644	13
1914 ..	768,829	58	380,716	28	184,168	14
1915 ..	828,015	57	445,898	30	182,217	13
1916 ..	1,132,000	62	505,665	27	198,324	11
1917 ..	893,785	55	494,338	30	236,001	15
1918 ..	619,973	48	453,250	35	225,451	17
1919 ..	1,672,423	64	663,976	26	264,960	10
1920 ..	2,281,820	61	735,837	20	704,115	19
1921—22 ..	1,777,350	59	796,343	26	412,827	15
1922—23 ..	2,035,359	60	892,115	27	429,722	13
1923—24 ..	2,154,707	58	1,011,744	27	576,333	15

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year was £4,105,938 and is therefore more than that for 1922-23 by £1,170,944.

The following table gives a comparison of the Expenditure for the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 :—

Head of Expenditure.	1922-23	1923-24	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. The Governor	12,561	11,411	—	1,150
2. Supreme Court	21,659	23,915	2,256	—
3. Law Officers	7,576	7,326	—	250
4. Colonial Secretary's Office, etc.	25,958	25,907	—	51
5. Printing Office	23,804	29,066	5,262	—
6. Native Affairs	4,073	3,448	—	625
7. Political Adminis- tration	130,452	126,295	—	4,157
8. Ashanti and N.T. Judiciary	2,613	4,066	1,453	—
9. Treasury	31,398	29,862	—	1,536
10. Audit Department	11,129	11,349	220	—
11. Customs	58,837	59,489	632	—
12. Customs Preventive Service	21,090	23,779	2,639	—
13. Marine	5,563	5,866	298	—
14. Railways	397,020	541,230	144,210	—
15. Posts and Telegraphs	104,695	109,641	4,946	—
16. Medical Department ..	122,813	118,898	—	3,915
17. Sanitation	92,580	96,253	3,673	—
18. Medical Research	6,435	4,943	—	1,492
19. Veterinary	10,158	9,466	—	692
20. Education	100,074	111,222	11,148	—
21. Agriculture	52,555	45,136	—	7,419
22. Forestry	19,242	18,450	—	792
23. Mines	4,129	3,326	—	803
24. Geological Survey	9,672	9,734	62	—
25. Gold Coast Regiment	88,564	90,842	2,278	—
26. Volunteers	715	1,019	304	—
27. Police	113,383	112,602	—	781
28. Prisons	44,600	46,750	2,150	—
29. Public Cemeteries	3,132	3,093	—	39
30. Survey Department	51,948	43,632	—	8,316
31. Northern Territories Constabulary	20,041	24,626	4,585	—

Head of Expenditure.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
32. Motor Trans. Dept.	28,482	28,070	—	412
33. Miscellaneous Service	98,724	64,168	—	34,556
34. Pensions and Gratuities ..	87,678	99,263	11,585	—
35. Public Debt Charges	382,452	407,426	24,974	—
36. Public Works Dept.	171,801	162,850	—	8,951
37. Public Works Annual- ly Recurrent ..	190,877	178,374	—	12,503
38. Public Works Extra- ordinary ..	300,824	178,617	—	122,207
39. Railways—Capital Improvements	67,939	10,390	—	57,549
40. Posts and Telegraphs Extraordinary	7,743	16,145	8,402	—
41. Special Departmental Expenditure ..	—	257,179	257,179	—
42. Expenditure on Loan Works	—	950,814	950,814	—
	2,934,994	4,105,938	1,439,140	268,196

The yearly revenue and expenditure for the period 1915 to 1923-24 is shown below :—

Year.						Revenue.	Expenditure.
						£	£
1915	..	..	..	..	..	1,456,130	1,627,015
1916	..	..	..	..	..	1,835,989	1,465,946
1917	..	..	..	..	..	1,624,124	1,424,279
1918	..	..	..	..	..	1,298,674	1,369,486
1919	..	..	..	..	..	2,601,360	1,781,170
1920	..	..	..	..	..	3,721,772	2,856,347
1921-22	..	..	..	..	..	3,016,520	3,285,290
1922-23	..	..	..	..	..	3,357,196	2,934,994
1923-24	..	..	..	..	..	3,742,834	4,105,938 (1)

Loans Works Statement.

The expenditure on works, begun but not completed out of the Loans raised up to 1910, has been charged to Surplus Balance since these Loans were exhausted in 1916.

(1) Includes special expenditure out of surplus balance of £257,179, and advances to loan works from same source of £950,814.

The appended statement shows particulars of this expenditure.

	Loan Funds.	Surplus Funds.	Total.
	£	£	£
Sekondi-Kumasi Railway ..	3,036,979	163,594	3,200,573
Tarkwa-Prestea Broomassie ..			
Railway	135,000	26,837	161,837
Accra-Kumasi Railway	2,441,914	348,904	2,790,818
Central Province Railway Survey	—	14,433	14,433
Central Province Railway Construction	—	106,412	106,412
Additional Rolling Stock ..	—	96,779	96,779
Railway Topographical Survey	—	102,951	102,951
Accra Harbour Works	241,141	142,762	383,903
Sekondi Harbour Works ..	168,312	98,200	266,512
Takoradi Harbour Works ..	412,633	587,401	1,000,034
Harbour Surveys	38,107	—	38,107
Accra Water Works	200,000	58,253	258,253
Sekondi Water Works	156,817	55,301	212,118
	6,830,903	1,801,827	8,632,730

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 1st April, 1923, was £1,901,786 and on 31st March, 1924, £1,538,682 a difference of £363,104, due to excess of Expenditure over Revenue during the year. It should be explained, however, that £950,814 of this Expenditure was in respect of Loan Works which will eventually be repaid to Revenue.

On the 1st April, 1923, the amount of the Public Debt was £7,299,118 and at 31st March, 1924, it stood at £7,279,118 a repayment of £20,000 having been made to the Imperial Government during the year.

The Sinking Fund for the amortization of the funded portion of the Public Debt was increased during the year by £87,412, made up of £56,630 from general revenue and £30,782 from interest on investments. The amount standing to the credit of the Fund on the 31st March, 1924, was £578,138.

Excluding the investments on account of the Sinking Fund, the investments held by Government on the 31st March, 1924, amounted to £905,445.

Owing to the appreciation of War Loan Stock it has been possible to reduce the Investment Depreciation Account from £75,000 to £5,000, an amount which is sufficient to cover the depreciation of old investments (at pre-war rates of interest) on account of the Savings Bank.

Stamps.

There were no stamps in the custody of the Vault Committee at 31st March, 1924. Receipts during the year amounted to £43,437. 10s. and Issues were the same. No balance was brought forward from the previous year.

Currency.

There were ample supplies of currency available during the year, although there were no importations of any sort by the Currency Board.

At 31st March, the following West African Currency was in circulation or at any rate issued in the Colony and not returned to Currency Board Stocks in the Colony *viz* :—

Currency Notes (almost entirely in

20s. and 10s. Notes)	..	..	£1,103,936
Alloy Coin	..	..	2,687,110
Nickel Coin	..	..	33,946
Total	..	..	<u>£3,824,992</u>

This figure is £31,100 greater than that for 31st March, 1923.

In addition to the above there is a certain amount of silver coin in circulation, although it is being withdrawn as it comes into the Banks and exported to England by the Currency Board for sale as bullion. During the year such exports amounted to £421,950.

Banking.

The usual Government accounts at various branches of the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank were maintained during the year.

The Bank of British West Africa, which commenced business in Accra on the 1st January, 1897, has since opened branches at Axim, Sekondi, Tarkwa, Kumasi, Cape Coast, Saltpond, Winneba, Bekwai, Koforidua, Nsawam, and Dunkwa, and agencies at Obuasi, Prestea, and Half Assinie.

The Colonial Bank, established in Accra on the 24th February, 1917, has now branches at Sekondi, Winneba, Kumasi, Koforidua, and Nsawam.

A Government Savings Bank conducted by the Treasury was established in 1888. The business was transferred to the Post Office in 1905, and is rapidly increasing. The amount standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1923, was £50,961.

Penny banks in connection with the Post Office have also been established in the principal Government Schools.

Municipal Bodies.

Town Councils are established at Accra, Cape Coast, and Sekondi. The following table shows their Revenue and Expenditure for the past six years :—

	1917.		1918.		1919.	
	Reve- nue.	Expen- diture.	Reve- nue.	Expen- diture.	Reve- nue.	Expen- diture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accra ..	13,986	15,766	13,454	13,251	14,046	13,963
Sekondi ..	5,923	5,564	6,180	6,089	5,981	6,147
Cape Coast ..	4,137	4,538	4,346	3,649	4,396	3,935

	1920.		1921.		1922.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accra ..	18,486	16,603	22,512 (a)	23,194	34,196 (d)	26,734
Sekondi	8,091	8,002	9,356 (b)	9,586	10,786 (e)	8,707
Cape Coast	6,752	6,068	7,170 (c)	7,000	7,943 (f)	6,559

(a) includes grant-in-aid of £7,000 from Government.

(b) £4,250

(c) £4,250

(d) £6,437

(e) £3,375

(f) £3,375

III.—TRADE.

Revenue.

The table below shows, in comparative form, the gross Customs revenue under the various heads for the years 1922 and 1923.

Head of Revenue.	1922.	1923.	Increase.	Decrease.
Import Duties.—	£	£	£	£
Ad valorem	383,219	689,482	306,263	—
Specific—Other than Wines, Spirits and Malts ..	385,086	412,315	27,229	—
Do. Wines, Spirits and Malts	482,728	655,580	172,852	—
Parcels Post (a)	48,454	—	—	48,454
King's and Colonial Ware- house Rents	2,819	3,432	613	—
Light Dues.. ..	2,766	3,549	783	—
Firearms, etc., Warehouse Rents	1,394	1,246	—	148
Export Duties.—				
Cocoa	646,464	461,300	—	185,164
Diamond	340	547	207	—
Lumber (Native Timber)	20,666	13,350	—	7,316
Other Export Duties (b)	6,881	—	—	6,881
Revenue from other Sources.—				
Miscellaneous (c)	10,052	10,371	319	—
Total	1,990,869	2,251,172	508,266 247,963	247,963
	Net increase ..		260,303	—

(a) Now classified under appropriate statistical headings.

(b) Represents Duties on Kola Nuts and Palm Kernels which are now abolished.

(c) Includes Warehouse Fees, Overtime Fees, Fees for granting and attesting Documents, Proceeds of sales of Confiscated goods, Fines for breaches of Customs Law, Ferry Tolls and Departments Fines.

2. The gross revenue receipts for 1923 amounted to £2,251,172 being £260,303 in excess of the gross receipts for 1922.

3. Ad valorem duties accounted for the largest increase in revenue compared with 1922, the proceeds from this head amounting to £689,482 as against £383,219 in the previous year. The increase yield from ad valorem sources was due to larger quantities of cotton goods being cleared for home consumption than in 1922, and because of the fact that from the commencement of the year under review articles imported by parcel post, and which are mainly subject to ad valorem duty, were credited to the appropriate headings in the trade statistics, whereas, in former years, parcel post imports were not so classified. The value of the parcel post trade in ad valorem goods during 1923 amounted to £334,057. The value of articles imported by parcel post subject to specific duty or exempt from duty is of little importance.

4. The revenue from spirituous liquor was greater by £172,852 (35.7 per cent) than the 1922 revenue from the same source.

5. The decrease in the export duty on Cocoa was due to the fact that during 1923 the duty was at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., while in the previous year the export duty was at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for 1st January to the 22nd August, from which latter date the duty was reduced to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.

Imports.

6. The value of the imports for 1923 amounted to £8,448,862 an increase over 1922 of £548,323. The principal increase occurred in articles subject to ad valorem duty, the items which chiefly contributed to this being apparel, beads, cotton goods, silk goods and metal manufactures. Among the specifically rated goods rice, flour, kerosene oil and motor spirit showed considerable increases, and wines, spirits and malts showed a decrease in value which is due to increased importations of gin the landed cost of which is less than that of other permissible spirits. A decrease in the imports of free goods took place but this is accounted for by the reduced value of such imports. The import of Government stores also decreased owing to reduced imports of railway and constructional material because of the near completion of the present railway extension programme. The strict economy now being exercised by Government in various directions is also reflected in the decreased imports.

7. Among the articles subject to specific duties the following show considerable increases in quantity and value as compared with 1922 : cement and lime, rice, flour, gin, illuminating oil and motor spirits and common soap. The following goods show increases in quantity but decreases in value : ale and porter, biscuits, bread and cakes, gunpowder and still wines. Decreases in articles specifically rated for duty are recorded in candles, cordage, whisky, tobacco and cigarettes, salt, fish salted and cured.

8. Conditions of trade in the Colony during the year were good, judging by the statistics. As the price level for food-stuffs and many manufactured articles was in a downward direction the value of imports shows in some instances a very considerable increase over 1922. A general revival of building operations led to the increased imports in

cement and lime. The fact that the landed price of rice and flour were less than during 1922 had a tendency to stimulate consumption and this coupled with the fact that a considerable amount of labour was employed during the year on works of public utility resulted in increased demand. In 1919 there were 1,200 miles of motorable roads in the Gold Coast and by the end of 1923 the mileage was over 3,200. This has resulted in increased importations of motor spirits and also facilitated the distribution of imported foodstuffs and other articles.

9. The decrease in imports of candles is due to the increased use of kerosene and that of dried and salted fish was made up by greater purchases of West Africa cured fish.

10. It is noticeable that the system of bonding imported dutiable goods until required for consumption is becoming increasingly popular. Uncertain trade conditions and scarcity of ready money have led to this and in the case of cotton goods, spirits and tobacco, the bonding transactions have been considerable.

11. The articles subject to a *valorem* duty which showed substantial increase during 1923 were cotton manufactures, Iron and steel manufactures (including buckets, pails, basins, tin and zinc manufactures and cutlery and other kinds) wood and timber, silk manufactures, apparel, beads, boots and shoes.

12. Articles in the free list which showed substantial increases were motor cars and lorries, coal and patent fuel, fish dried and salted or smoked, not in tins, jars or bottles (i.e., cured in West Africa), machinery, bags and sacks and corrugated iron sheets.

13. Paragraph 3 refers to the classification of articles imported by Parcels Post and the increase imports of apparel and silk manufactures are chiefly due to the inclusion of parcels post imports. Imported timber and corrugated iron sheets were in great demand for building operations. The extension of motorable roads has already been alluded to and this accounts for the increased imports of motor cars and lorries, and the extended use of coal by the Railway, Mines and Harbour Works accounts for the increased imports of this item. The further development of the cocoa industry is reflected in the increased imports of bags and sacks.

14. The only important dutiable articles which showed decreases were Oils (other kinds), Provisions and Stationery. As a matter of fact these are not genuine decreases but are due to the re-arrangement of the statistical heads under which articles are classified. Formerly imports such as butter, cheese, confectionery, fish, canned, smoked or cured, meats and tinned milk were classified under the general head, Provisions unenumerated. Under the head Oil (other kinds), lubricating oil and turpentine were classified, and paper all kinds, was classified under stationery. All these items now appear under their proper heads and the alterations in classification are the causes of the decreases alluded to above.

15. In free goods there were substantial decreases in Railway Rolling Stock, Motor car and lorry parts and Electrical and Telegraphic apparatus.

16. Decreased importations for construction work by the Railway accounts for the decrease in Railway Stock and the Post and Telegraph Department imported smaller quantities of apparatus. Motor tyres are no longer classified under motor car parts but under a separate heading of manufactures of rubber, tyres for vehicles, which accounts for the apparent decrease.

Exports.

17. The total value of the exports for 1923 was £8,959,212. This included bullion and specie, £1,371,724. This is an increase over 1922 of £623,812.

18. 197,664 tons of cocoa, the staple product of the Colony were exported or 38,359 tons more than in 1922. The value of the cocoa exports in 1922 and 1923 were £5,840,743 and £6,566,973. The 1923 export is a record for the Colony.

19. With the exception of Ivory, Wood and Timber, and Bullion all other articles of domestic produce show increases, particularly Kola nuts, Cotton, Manganese ore and Palm oil. The exports of these articles in 1922 and 1923 are shown below.

Articles.	Quantities.		Values.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
Cotton .. lbs.	5,994	37,114	£ 200	£ 1,573	31,120	£ 1,373	—	£ —
Kola	11,865,853	13,657,318	311,026	319,805	1,791,465	8,779	—	—
Gum-Rubber ..	16,178	312,922	462	9,256	296,744	8,794	—	—
Manganese .. tons.	61,279	135,603	106,031	327,377	74,324	221,346	—	—
Palm Oil .. glls.	210,364	358,374	20,010	37,773	148,010	17,763	—	—
Ivory } Wood and } Timber } Mahogany } Bullion— }	5,334	4,731	2,032	1,005	—	—	602	1,027
Gold .. ozs.	2,479,929	1,666,034	254,384	156,308	—	—	813,895	98,076
	228,132	224,638	889,204	850,671	—	—	3,494	38,533

20. The diamond industry, still in its infancy, is making headway slowly. In view of the reports of a cotton famine it is gratifying to find the exports of this commodity increasing, and as large distributions of seeds have been made by Government to farmers, it is hoped that a further increase will be shown during 1924. The decrease in the export of bullion is due to difficulties in obtaining labour for mining work, but a solution of this problem is hoped for shortly.

Direction of Trade.

21. The direction of trade is shown in the following table :—

Countries.	Imports per cent.		Exports per cent.		Aggregate Trade per cent.	
	1913	1923	1913	1923	1913	1923.
United Kingdom	69.99	69.48	64.77	34.53	67.26	51.50
British West Africa	5.54	2.62	7.42	3.92	6.53	3.29
Other parts of British Empire	.21	.37	—	—	.1	.18
Total British Empire ..	75.74	72.47	72.19	38.45	73.89	55.03
United States of America ..	5.09	10.53	1.86	26.02	3.4	18.47
France .. ..	.94	1.22	8.39	7.99	4.84	4.69
Holland	3.82	5.8	—	17.58	1.82	11.84
Germany	7.85	5.39	16.57	7.13	12.41	6.28
Other Foreign Countries ..	6.56	4.59	.99	2.83	3.64	3.09
Total Foreign Countries	24.26	77.53	27.81	61.55	26.11	44.9
Grand Total ..	100	100	100	100	100	100

21. The United Kingdom was the chief source of supply for the following imports :—Fish, canned or preserved, rice, sugar, tobacco, apparel, bags and sacks, cement, cotton goods, machinery, silk manufactures and soap.

Shipping.

Nationality.	Entered.				Totals.		Percent- age of total tonnage entered.
	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Nos.	Tons.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons			
British ..	340	992,182	1	59	341	992,241	59.65
French ..	58	162,935	—	—	58	162,935	9.79
American ..	36	119,104	2	1,728	38	120,832	7.26
Dutch ..	71	139,619	—	—	71	139,619	8.39
Norwegian ..	11	18,135	—	—	11	18,135	1.1
German ..	78	163,427	—	—	78	163,427	9.82
Belgian ..	1	2,955	—	—	1	2,955	.18
Italian ..	16	44,419	—	—	16	44,419	2.67
Swedish ..	13	16,538	—	—	13	16,583	1.0
Portuguese	1	2,354	—	—	1	2,354	.14
Total ..	625	1,661,713	3	1,787	628	1,663,500	100%

Nationality.	Cleared.				Totals.		Percent- age of total tonnage cleared.
	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Nos.	Tons.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.			
British ..	335	985,123	—	—	335	985,123	60.28
French ..	59	165,487	—	—	59	165,487	10.13
American ..	34	112,869	1	1,107	35	113,976	6.97
Norwegian ..	10	15,379	—	—	10	15,379	.94
German ..	73	151,189	—	—	73	151,189	9.25
Dutch ..	70	136,904	—	—	70	136,904	8.38
Italian ..	16	44,418	—	—	16	44,418	2.72
Swedish ..	13	16,584	—	—	13	16,584	1.01
Portuguese	1	2,354	—	—	1	2,354	.14
Belgian ..	1	2,955	—	—	1	2,955	.18
Total ..	612	1,633,262	1	1,107	613	1,634,369	100%

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	1913	1923	1913	1923	1913	1923.
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British West Africa ..	5.54	2.62	7.42	3.92	6.53	3.29
Other parts of British Empire	.21	.37	—	—	.1	.18
Total British Empire ..	75.74	72.47	72.19	38.45	73.89	55.03
United States of America ..	5.09	10.53	1.86	26.02	3.4	18.47
France .. ..	.94	1.22	8.39	7.99	4.84	4.69
Holland	3.82	5.8	—	17.58	1.82	11.84
Germany	7.85	5.39	16.57	7.13	12.41	6.28
Other Foreign Countries ..	6.56	4.59	.99	2.83	3.64	3.69
Total Foreign Countries	24.26	77.53	27.81	61.55	26.11	44.9
Grand Total ..	100	100	100	100	100	100

21. The United Kingdom was the chief source of supply for the following imports :—Fish, canned or preserved, rice, sugar, tobacco, apparel, bags and sacks, cement, cotton goods, machinery, silk manufactures and soap.

Shipping.

Nationality.	Entered.				Totals.		Percent- age of total tonnage entered.
	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Nos.	Tons.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons			
British ..	340	992,182	1	59	341	992,241	59.65
French ..	58	162,935	—	—	58	162,935	9.79
American ..	36	119,104	2	1,728	38	120,832	7.26
Dutch ..	71	139,619	—	—	71	139,619	8.39
Norwegian ..	11	18,135	—	—	11	18,135	1.1
German ..	78	163,427	—	—	78	163,427	9.82
Belgian ..	1	2,955	—	—	1	2,955	.18
Italian ..	16	44,419	—	—	16	44,419	2.67
Swedish ..	13	16,538	—	—	13	16,583	1.0
Portuguese	1	2,354	—	—	1	2,354	.14
Total ..	625	1,661,713	3	1,787	628	1,663,500	100%

Nationality.	Cleared.				Totals.		Percent- age of total tonnage cleared.
	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Nos.	Tons.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.			
British ..	335	985,123	—	—	335	985,123	60.28
French ..	59	165,487	—	—	59	165,487	10.13
American ..	34	112,869	1	1,107	35	113,976	6.97
Norwegian ..	10	15,379	—	—	10	15,379	.94
German ..	73	151,189	—	—	73	151,189	9.25
Dutch ..	70	136,904	—	—	70	136,904	8.38
Italian ..	16	44,418	—	—	16	44,418	2.72
Swedish ..	13	16,584	—	—	13	16,584	1.01
Portuguese	1	2,354	—	—	1	2,354	.14
Belgian ..	1	2,955	—	—	1	2,955	.18
Total ..	612	1,633,262	1	1,107	613	1,634,369	100%

Ports.

Port.	Total Values.		Volume of Trade.
	Imports.	Exports.	
	£	£	£
Accra	3,162,307	3,315,559	6,477,866
Sekondi	3,284,571	3,624,454	6,909,026
Winneba	406,294	736,770	1,143,064
Cape Coast	324,735	354,988	679,723
Ada	220,154	122,164	342,318
Saltpond	266,425	397,754	664,179
Keta	210,461	144,625	355,086
Axim	105,560	137,591	243,151
Half Assinie	90,348	25,172	115,520
Total	8,070,855	8,859,077	16,929,932

IV.—LEGISLATION, 1923.**GOLD COAST.**

During the year 1923 thirty-seven Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest :—

No. 5 of 1923.—The Wireless Telegraphy Amendment Ordinance. 1923 extends the application of the provisions of the principal Ordinance (Chapter 53) to radio-telephony.

No. 6 of 1923.—The Supreme Court Amendment Ordinance, 1923, amends the law with respect to proceedings in the Full Court. The provision which made the Chief Justice an indispensable member of the Full Court is repealed; the object being to render it unnecessary for him to sit on an appeal from one of his own judgments. A fresh provision has also been inserted the effect of which is to afford to the unsuccessful party in a Full Court appeal wherein the members of the Court were equally divided, an opportunity of having the appeal reheard by a re-constituted Court, should such party so desire.

No. 8 of 1923.—The Customs Ordinance, 1923. This Ordinance supplies a completely revised and up-to-date Customs code, for the construction of which some materials have been drawn from the draft Customs Bill presented by the Trinidad Customs Conference of 1919, and also from the Customs laws of the United Kingdom, the Union of South Africa, British Guiana, and Nigeria.

No. 12 of 1923.—The Celluloid and Cinematograph Film Ordinance, 1923. The provisions of this Ordinance have been adapted to local conditions and needs from those contained in the Act of the Imperial Parliament 12 and 12 Geo. V., ch. 35.

Nos. 13 and 14 of 1923.—The West African Frontier Force Ordinance, 1923, and the West African Frontier Force (Reserve Force) Ordinance, 1923. These Ordinances contained the approved revised provisions (which are uniform throughout British West Africa) with respect to the various units of the West African Frontier Force and to the Reserve Force thereof. A leading feature of the former Ordinance is that it embodies considerable portions of the Imperial Army Act.

No. 16 of 1923.—The Trade Marks Ordinance, 1923, follows closely the provisions of Part I of the Trade Marks Act, 1919 of the Imperial Parliament. Section 4 provides for the registration in the Gold Coast Colony of trade marks which have been registered in Part B of the Register in the United Kingdom, even though they have not been used for two years, or at all, in the said Colony.

No. 22 of 1923.—The Native Customs Amendment Ordinance, 1923, provides certain additional police and magisterial powers for dealing with articles (such as prohibited company flags, tribal emblems, and the like) connected with contraventions of the principal Ordinance (Chapter 83) relating to the celebration of unlawful native ceremonies.

No. 26 of 1923.—The Motor Traffic Amendment Ordinance, 1923, renders more strict the law relating to motor cars. Section 3 adds a further requirement providing that motor cars shall have serviceable steering gear.

Section 5 gives—

- (i) power to the Chief Mechanical Transport Officer or an officer appointed by him to make periodical inspections of motor cars with a view to ascertaining whether they are defective in any part, and to prohibit the further use of any motor car in which the defect is such as to render the car dangerous to drive, until such defect has been made good ;
- (ii) power to the officers of the Motor Transport Department and to the Police to stop any car which they may consider is being used in contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance.

Sections 6 and 8 penalise the taking up by motor drivers of passengers and freight without due authority, many complaints having been made as to fraudulent scandals taking place in this connection.

No. 35 of 1923.—The Second Spirituous Liquors Amendment Ordinance, 1923. The amendment of the law effected by this Ordinance is to adopt, in uniformity with the legislation of other parts of British West Africa, the definition of "spirits" and "trade spirits" which have been decided on by the Secretary of State after consideration of the views of the various West African Governors, the Chambers of Commerce, and the Wines and Spirits Association

No. 36 of 1923.—The Customs Tariff Further Amendment Ordinance, 1923. The principal provision of this Ordinance is that contained in section 2, and its purport is to revert, with effect from the 1st January, 1924, to the method which was in vogue prior to the 3rd July, 1922, of assessing the value of imported goods for the purpose of computing the ad valorem duty payable thereon: that is to say it is now intended to abandon the "current domestic value" basis of assessment and to revert to the "actual purchase price" basis of assessment.

No. 37 of 1923.—The Plants (Injurious Pests) Ordinance, 1923 repeals Chapter 98, and substitutes therefor an enactment of wider scope. The general purport of the Ordinance is to make further provision for the sanitation of farms and for the prevention of plant diseases thereon. In the first instance, the crops in respect of which provision is made are the cocoa, cotton, and rubber crops.

Section 4 prohibits the importation of declared plants except at a prescribed port of entry.

Section 5 prohibits the importation of certain articles except under licence of the Director of Agriculture.

Section 7 defines the duties of Inspectors on a first inspection of a farm: and section 8 defines the duties of the occupier after such inspection.

Section 9 defines the duty of the occupier in respect of the maintenance of his farm in a satisfactory condition of cultivation.

Section 12 prohibits the removal from a farm of plants attacked by an injurious pest, except in certain specified cases.

ASHANTI.

During the year 1923 five Ordinances were enacted with respect to Ashanti, certain of which were enacted for the purpose of applying to Ashanti certain Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 4 of 1923.—The Ashanti Concessions Amendment Ordinance, 1923. This Ordinance restores the provision that the chiefs concerned shall be informed of the area in respect of which a licence to prospect has been granted. It also provides that prospectors must declare to the Secretary for Mines the quantity of quartz, alluvial gold, timber, rubber, or other product of the soil, which they have removed as specimens, stating at the same time the name or position of the place or places from which such specimens were taken.

NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

During the year 1923 six Ordinances were enacted with respect to the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, certain of which were enacted for the purpose of applying to the Protectorate certain Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 1 of 1923.—The Northern Territories Administration Amendment Ordinance, 1923, makes provision for the statutory acquisition of land for the public service ; and it also declares to be vested absolutely in the Crown the lands premises, and buildings which were on the 31st day of December, 1922, held and occupied as Government property.

No. 2 of 1923.—The Mineral Rights Amendment Ordinance, 1923, substitutes for the term "licence" the term "lease" in respect of the mining rights to be acquired under the provisions of the principal Ordinance (Northern Territories Ordinance No. 2 of 1904).

No. 5 of 1923.—The Constabulary Ordinance, 1923, repeals and re-enacts with several slight modifications the Northern Territories Constabulary Ordinance, 1917 (Northern Territories Ordinance No. 2 of 1917).

V.—AGRICULTURE.

Cocoa.

This crop continues to be the principal crop of the Colony.

The following table shows the quantities exported annually and their value during the last ten years :—

Year.	Quantity (tons).	Value. £	Per ton. £
1914 ..	52,888	2,193,749	41.47
1915 ..	77,278	3,651,341	47.24
1916 ..	72,123	3,846,090	53.32
1917 ..	90,964	3,146,851	34.60
1918 ..	66,343	1,796,985	27.08
1919 ..	176,155	8,278,166	46.99
1920 ..	124,773	10,056,298	80.59
1921 ..	133,195	4,764,067	35.77
1922-23	176,245	6,445,384	36.57
1923-24	197,444	6,058,223	30.68

The increase in tonnage for the current year over the previous one is 21,199 tons. The amount shipped constitutes a record. This was no doubt partly due to the extension of railway system and the construction of feeding roads, but the crop in itself was generally an excellent one.

Of the total quantity exported during the year 1923-24, the percentage contributed by each Province is as below, the previous year's percentage being given for comparison :—

	1923-24.	1922-23.
Eastern Province	47.69	51.65
Central Province	20.22	19.30
Western Province		
(Including Ashanti)	32.09	29.05

Copra.

The exports for the last three years are as below :—

1921	443 tons.
1922-23	1,694 „
1923-24	1,305 „

The decrease of approximately 25 per cent. is not easily explained as increasing interest is being taken in this crop and considerable extensions have been made to the areas planted in the neighbourhood, principally of Keta.

The communal plantations established in the three provinces to encourage increased interest in this crop, are making steady progress.

Palm Oil and Kernels.

A considerable increase in the export of kernels indicates that the trade shows good signs of a revival. The figures for the exports during the last five years are as below :—

	Palm Oil.	Palm Kernels.
1919	938,595 gals.	9,892 tons.
1920	629,612 „	7,664 „
1921	67,447 „	1,650 „
1922-23	298,979 „	3,039 „
1923-24	1,640 tons.	4,563 „

Cola Nuts.

The following are the export figures for this product for the last three years:—

1921	13,693,412 lbs.
1922-23	12,825,127 „
1923-24	15,489,255 „

There has been an appreciable recovery in the export of this product. The export figures, however, give very little idea of the extent of this industry owing to the fact that such large quantities are used locally by the Hausa and Northern Territories tribes. Efforts are being made to induce the farmers to extend the crop and these efforts are being met with a fair degree of success.

Rubber.

There has been a surprising revival in the exports of rubber since last year which may be due to the somewhat higher prices obtaining on the home market. Below are the export figures for the last three years :—

1921..	..	102,780 lbs.
1922-23	..	15,282 „
1923-24	..	364,644 „

Shea Butter.

Investigations continue to be carried out but so far there is not much conclusive evidence to report.

Miscellaneous.

Propaganda work has been continued with regard to the cultivation of Rice in Appolonia. The erection of a small rice hulling factory is in progress and will be completed at an early date.

2. Little material progress has been made in the production of Sugar Cane.

3. Tobacco, Cotton, Coffee :—The cultivation of these products is being encouraged and seeds have been distributed to farmers.

4. There has been a plentiful supply of the usual food crops and cultivation is much on the increase.

VI.—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

The Headquarters of the Veterinary Department are at Tamale in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast. The Department employs three Veterinary Officers and two Inspectors of Live-Stock. The African Staff consists of two Veterinary Assistants.

A Veterinary School for the training of Veterinary Assistants is established at Tamale and is a branch of the Department. It is in charge of an Indian Veterinary Graduate who is the Headmaster of the School. A Veterinary Officer and an Inspector of Live-Stock also give lectures to the Students, the former for two hours and the latter for three hours daily. Students enter on a four years course of training and when qualified pass out as Graduates of the Gold Coast Veterinary School and are employed by the Government.

The chief work of the Veterinary Department falls under the following headings :—

- (a) To guard the indigenous stock against outbreaks of contagious and infectious disease.
- (b) To suppress outbreaks of contagious and infectious disease whenever they occur, thus preventing their spread.
- (c) To spread practical knowledge of Veterinary and Zootechnic subjects amongst the indigenous people.
- (d) To improve the indigenous breeds of Live-Stock.

All the above works of the Veterinary Department are for the primary object of increasing the wealth and number of stock of the protected natives.

Other works carried out are :—

- (e) Scientific researches into diseases of Live-Stock.
- (f) Treatment of domestic animals.
- (g) Researches dealing with the feeding of Live-Stock.
- (h) Researches regarding the propagation of stud animals.

Animal Diseases.

The field staff have been concentrated throughout the year on the suppression of Rinderpest. 10,192 Serum—Alone inoculation were carried out on cattle in the infected herds. There were also 43 cattle inoculated by the Sero-virus method. A second epizootic, that of an outbreak of Contagious Bovine-Pleuro-Pneumonia, broke out on the Tamale Stock Farm, and 29 head of cattle had to be killed, five of which were half-bred cattle. The mortality in cattle from disease other than Rinderpest and Pleuro-Pneumonia has been very slight. The mortality in sheep from wire-worm (*haemonchus contortus*) has been considerable. Of Horse diseases Epizootic Lymphangitis is spreading.

Live-Stock Census.

The Live-Stock Census of the country is about :—

Horses.	Asses.	Cattle.	Sheep and Goats.	Pigs.	Camels.	Ostriches.
3,100	9,200	85,000	320,000	15,000	—	—

Live-Stock trade and their Products.

The cattle trade is chiefly in the hands of the Natives but numbers of Syrians and Frenchmen were employed in trading in Live-Stock.

GOLD COAST, 1923—24.

There are three Quarantine Stations on the Frontier for imported Live-Stock. The period of quarantine for cattle is nine days, for other stock one day.

Comparative statistics for the last two years of stock passing through the Quarantine Station are :—

Year.	1923-1924.	1922-1923.
Cattle	35,933	29,845
Sheep and Goats	58,026	43,003
Donkeys	25,777	14,423
Horses	325	113

The exact amount of meat sold in the different markets is not known, but it can safely be said that 5,600,000 lbs. of beef, 2,100,000 lbs. of mutton and goat flesh, 13,000 lbs. of pork, and 600,000 lbs., of poultry flesh were available for consumption.

In the Abattoir of Kumasi 2,440 cattle, 1,972 sheep, 2,392 goats and 298 pigs were slaughtered for consumption. The trade in hides at Kumasi showed an increase of 1,812 hides over that done for last year.

Zootechnics.

Zootechnics refers to the breeding, keeping and general management of domestic animals.

A shot-horn and Hereford Bull are stationed at Tamale. They have now been in West Africa three years. There are 18 half-bred calves sired by these two bulls and one quarter-bred calf sired by the eldest half-bred bull calf.

Ninety-three pure bred English Poultry were issued into different areas of the Northern Territories and the result of this strain of blood among the native poultry is beginning to be seen.

The old Middle White boar and sow imported in 1921 have died.

The Pure-bred Middle White Sow, the sole daughter of the original sow, farrowed a litter of five pure-bred porkers. Twenty-one half-bred pigs were sold in Ashanti for breeding purposes.

Agricultural Experiments.

Further experiments were conducted with Indian seeds. Gram seeds at the second generation proved a failure. Indian legumes, Moong and Mote did exceedingly well and were prolific, having passed into the fourth generation of seed. The second generation of the double sun flower seed proved that over 50 per cent. of seed were unfertile.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Education in the Colony is chiefly in the hands of the Government and the following Missionary Societies:—The African Methodist Episcopal Zionist Mission, The Church of England (S.P.G.), The Roman Catholic, The Scottish and the Wesleyan Missions.

The Scottish Mission came to the Colony in 1918 to take over the work of the Basel Mission as the European Missionaries of this Society were deported during the Great War. For a time Government took entire control of the former Basel Mission Schools and it was not until the year 1920 that the Scottish Mission were in a position to take over the entire control and financial responsibility of the former Basel Mission educational work.

The Bremen Mission was formerly established in this Colony beyond the Volta River, but, as in the case of the Basel Mission, the European personnel of this Mission had to leave this Colony during the war. Since their departure the educational work of this Mission has been entirely controlled and financed by Government, but at the time of writing arrangements have been made for the Scottish Mission to take over the ecclesiastical work of the former Bremen Mission, but the schools are still under the control of this Department.

In addition to the former Bremen Mission Schools at present under the control of Government, there are 21 Government Primary Schools established with an enrolment of 4,109 boys and 869 girls, with a total average attendance of 4,283. Four of these schools are in the Western Province, three in the Central Province, five in the Eastern Province, four in Ashanti and five in the Northern Territories. These schools are entirely supported and equipped from Government funds, and the total staff of teachers in these schools is 183, nearly all of whom hold local teachers' certificates. The staff at these schools is entirely native with the exception of the Headmistress at the Government Girls' School, Accra.

The Mission Schools are of two kinds, viz.:—Assisted and Non-Assisted. The former schools have qualified under the Education Ordinance and Rules for Government assistance and annually receive grants-in-aid for general efficiency based on the average attendance. The number of these schools in the Colony and Ashanti is at present 222. There are no Assisted Schools as yet in the Northern Territories. The Non-Assisted Schools are usually small schools which have not as yet, qualified for Government inspection, though there are, in addition, a few large schools which have not yet been placed on the "Assisted List." The number of Non-Assisted Schools is roughly computed to be about 460, but no accurate statistics are available in respect of some of these schools.

The A.M.E.Z. Mission has three schools in the Central Province, three in the Trans-Volta District and one in Ashanti. The Scottish Mission has eleven schools in the Central Province, sixty-three in the Eastern Province, five in the Trans-Volta District and sixteen in Ashanti.

The schools of the former Bremen Mission are all in the Trans-Volta District. The Church of England has three schools in the Western Province, a Secondary School at Cape Coast in the Central Province, one school in the Eastern Province and two schools in Ashanti. The Roman Catholic Schools are as follows :—nine in the Western Province, ten in the Central Province, ten in the Trans-Volta District, and four in Ashanti. The Wesleyan Mission has eight schools in the Western Province, nineteen in the Central Province, twenty-three in the Eastern Province, and five in Ashanti.

In all these schools, as well as in the Government Primary Schools, some form of manual work is taken. In the schools in the interior this usually takes the form of agricultural work and gardens are attached to most of the schools. Prizes have been offered annually for the best school gardens. Instruction is given in woodwork in the Government Schools at Accra, Cape Coast and Kumasi, and book-binding, printing, carpentry, netting, weaving and basket making are taught in some of the Mission Schools.

In the Assisted Schools there are 30,430 children on the roll of whom 5,677 are girls. The average attendance at these schools is 25,895.

The total enrolment and average attendance at the Government and Assisted Schools is 35,408 and 30,178 respectively. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 33,353 and 28,045.

The amount awarded as grants-in-aid in respect of these schools was £30,757 11s. 3d., as compared with £27,371 4s. 2d. in the previous year, an increase of £3,386 7s. 1d.

Good progress was made during the year in preparing plans for the complete reorganisation of the educational system now in force.

The following table shows the number of Government and Assisted Schools, with number on roll, average attendance and amounts of grant awarded in 1923 :—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	On Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grant-in-Aid.	Remarks.
A.M.E. Zion Mission ..	7	1,186	986	£ s. d. 1,158 13 0	
Ewe Mission	23	2,515	2,338	—	Expenses temporarily de- frayed by Government.
Church of England S.P.G. Mission	6	948	788	1,112 17 0	
Government . . .	21	4,978	4,283	—	Expenses defrayed by Government.
Roman Catholic Mission ..	33	4,179	3,407	4,832 3 7	

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	On Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grant-in-Aid. £ s. d.	Remarks.
Scottish Mission	95	10,790	9,502	12,337 6 11	
Wesleyan Mission	55	9,780	7,951	9,764 2 2	
Secondary .. .	2	156	134	577 0 7	
Accra Royal School .. .	1	876	789	975 8 0	
Total	243	35,408	30,178	30,757 11 3	

There are at present three centres at which students are trained to be teachers, viz., the Government Training College at Accra, the Scottish Mission Seminary at Akropong and Wesley College, Kumasi. The Government Training College, Accra was opened in August 1909 and students for this College are received from the Government and Assisted Schools. The staff at present consists of an acting Principal with six European Masters, one of whom is Housemaster, and three African Teachers. This staff is now being increased by one European Master and will be very considerably increased when the College is moved to Achimota—an excellent site about six miles away from Accra on which it is proposed to erect large and up-to-date buildings for a Government Secondary School. The present college will become merged into the Secondary School and will form one of its departments. The Survey School now under the Survey Department will be another side. The staff at the new Secondary School will be very considerable as it will be the centre of training for the various professions.

At the Training College this year there were 163 students in residence. At the Scottish Mission Seminary Akropong there were about 131 students in residence and the staff consisted of three Europeans and two African Assistants.

The Wesleyan Mission has now built a college at Kumasi for the training of their mission teachers; 48 student-teachers are now in residence.

One of the most important educational establishments in the Colony is the Technical School at Accra. This school was opened in 1909 and from year to year improvements and gradual extensions have taken place so that to-day its premises are very satisfactory and large enough for the present number of pupils in residence, viz: 84. But the demand for admission to this school, the only one of its kind in the Colony is very great and only a very small percentage of the applicants are able to be admitted. As soon as the Training College is moved to Achimota part of the present college will be taken over by the Technical School. This will allow for a considerable number of additional pupils for there will be extra workshop and dormitory accommodation. Additional equipment will, of course, be required. The present staff at this school consists of a Principal, four European Masters, one of whom is Housemaster, and four African Teachers. Two of the masters and two teachers are engaged in the woodwork department and the other two masters and teachers in the metalwork department.

Trade Schools.

Four of these schools have now been opened. The first to be opened was that at Yendi in February, followed by that at Kibi in March and Assuantsi and Mampong in July. The necessary temporary buildings were very satisfactorily erected by the Omanhenes and their people with the assistance of Political Officers whilst the construction of future buildings, temporary and permanent rests now with the staff and pupils.

At present there are 188 pupils in residence at these schools : 68 being trained for woodwork, 42 for masonry, 40 for agriculture and 38 for metalwork. Each school is in charge of a European Headmaster and he is assisted by literary, woodwork and masonry Instructors, while agricultural Instructors are supplied by the Agricultural Department as whole time Instructors. These schools are organized entirely on Boy Scout lines. The purpose of these schools is the turning out of intelligent artisans but the main aim is the training and development of character and responsibility in the individual.

The S.P.G. Grammar School and the Richmond College (Wesleyan Mission) are the only Secondary Schools on the Assisted List.

The Educationists' Committee of 1922 has now completed an Interim Report on the proposed Government Secondary School at Achimota. The plans of the buildings have now been very carefully prepared and it is hoped that building will be initiated at an early date.

Great impetus has been given to the encouragement of recreation in the schools by the formation of the Accra School Football League. Similar Leagues are now being formed in other places and school matches are being regularly played. Hockey has been introduced at the Government Training College and Government Girls' School, Accra and is likely to prove a very popular game.

Boy Scout principles are observed in many of the schools and the movement is making great strides on correct lines in the country. Teachers and pupils alike in schools where Boy Scout Principles have been introduced are most enthusiastic. The girls, too, are now much more keen on games and are beginning to realize that " school " is not merely a place for book-learning.

Each year more certificated teachers are drafted into the Government and Assisted Schools and more efficient teaching should be anticipated.

A three years' course now obtains at all Training Colleges and Institutions in the Colony and Ashanti.

VIII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

During the year 2,130 Europeans and 75,362 Africans were treated in the Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Colony as compared with 2,928 and 68,275 respectively in the previous year.

The number of patients admitted into the Accra Lunatic Asylum during the year was 71 males and 14 females. The number discharged was 21 males and 3 females. The daily average number of inmates was 191 as compared with 165.7 in 1922—1923. There were 42 deaths—37 males and 5 females.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

At the Census taken in 1921 the population of the Gold Coast and its Dependencies was 2,299,961.

The number of Europeans resident in the Colony during the two years 1922-23 and 1923-24 were :—

	1922-23	1923-24
Officials	979	994
Mercantile	1,410	1,425
Mining	521	527
Missionaries	88	97
	<u>2,998</u>	<u>3,043</u>

Public Health.

The number of births and deaths registered in the 17 registration areas during 1923-24 is given hereunder together with a column showing the corresponding figures for 1922-23 :—

	1922-23	1923-24
Births	2,988	2,941
Deaths	3,283	3,285
Still-births . .	149	117

Europeans are included in the above figures.

The number of births is lower than it should be as birth registration is still unpopular amongst the illiterate classes.

The figure for death is approximately accurate, for no burial permits are granted without registration, the issuing of permits and registration of deaths being done by the same officer.

The chief causes of death were pulmonary and intestinal diseases,

An analysis of the death and invaliding statistics of the European population is appended :—

1923-24.	Number of residents.	Deaths.	Invalided.	Death rate per 1000.	Invaliding rate per 1000.
Officials ..	994	10	32	10.06	32.19
Merchants ..	1,425	11	25	7.71	17.54
Mining ..	527	2	28	3.79	53.13
Missionaries ..	97	1	2	10.92	20.61
Total ..	3,043	24	87	7.88	28.59

The death rate of 7.88 per 1000 amongst Europeans is a decrease on the previous year—10.34 for 1922—23. The invaliding rate per 1000 shews a slight increase—28.59 per thousand in 1923—24 as against 25.35 in 1922—23.

The ten deaths amongst European Officials were due : two to Yellow Fever, two to Blackwater Fever, three to Heart failure, and one each to Chronic Myocarditis, Rupture of thoracic Aneurism, Cerebral Embolism.

Of the 14 deaths amongst European Non-Officials 8 were due to Yellow Fever, two to Blackwater Fever and one each to Alcoholism, Fracture of skull, Cerebral Malaria, Cyanide poisoning.

The average daily number of European Officials on the Sick List compared to the average daily number resident in the Colony was 2.42 per cent as compared with 2.96 in 1922—23. Treatment was given in 5,963 cases of Malaria, 551 cases of Dysentery, 534 cases of Pneumonia, 411 cases of Tuberculosis, 44 cases of Plague and two of Smallpox. Six cases of Sleeping Sickness were treated during the year.

Sanitation.

The sanitary condition of most of the large towns was fairly satisfactory.

490,513 houses were inspected during the year and the average larval index was 0.94 per cent. There were 3,726 prosecutions under the Destruction of Mosquitoes Ordinance—Cap. 64—3,660 persons being convicted, the fines amounting to £1,835.

Other insanitary conditions led to 7,492 prosecutions with 7,198 convictions and £2,525 in fines.

Epidemic Diseases.

There were several outbreaks during the year. The remains of the epidemic of yellow fever mentioned last year continued till July, 1923, and while the death rate amongst Europeans who contracted this disease was 100 per cent the general death rate worked out at approximately 85 per cent.

There was an outbreak of relapsing fever of a very mild type and low mortality rate.

Plague broke out in Sekondi and was first definitely recognised towards the middle of March, but it was also diagnosed from Tailor Krum a small village near Nsuta which is the next station to Tarkwa on the Sekondi-Kumasi railway.

Up to the end of the year the case mortality of the known and suspected cases worked out at 60 per cent.

There has been no outbreak of smallpox though nine cases were reported, eight in the Northern Territories and one in the Colony

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

At the Census taken in 1921 the population of the Gold Coast and its Dependencies was 2,299,961.

The number of Europeans resident in the Colony during the two years 1922-23 and 1923-24 were :—

	1922-23	1923-24
Officials	979	994
Mercantile	1,410	1,425
Mining	521	527
Missionaries	88	97
	<u>2,998</u>	<u>3,043</u>

Public Health.

The number of births and deaths registered in the 17 registration areas during 1923-24 is given hereunder together with a column showing the corresponding figures for 1922-23 :—

	1922-23	1923-24
Births	2,988	2,941
Deaths	3,283	3,285
Still-births . .	149	117

Europeans are included in the above figures.

The number of births is lower than it should be as birth registration is still unpopular amongst the illiterate classes.

The figure for death is approximately accurate, for no burial permits are granted without registration, the issuing of permits and registration of deaths being done by the same officer.

The chief causes of death were pulmonary and intestinal diseases,

An analysis of the death and invaliding statistics of the European population is appended :—

1923-24.	Number of residents.	Deaths.	Invalided.	Death rate per 1000.	Invaliding rate per 1000.
Officials ..	994	10	32	10.06	32.19
Merchants ..	1,425	11	25	7.71	17.54
Mining ..	527	2	28	3.79	53.13
Missionaries ..	97	1	2	10.92	20.61
Total ..	3,043	24	87	7.88	28.59

The death rate of 7.88 per 1000 amongst Europeans is a decrease on the previous year—10.34 for 1922-23. The invaliding rate per 1000 shews a slight increase—28.59 per thousand in 1923-24 as against 25.35 in 1922-23.

The ten deaths amongst European Officials were due : two to Yellow Fever, two to Blackwater Fever, three to Heart failure, and one each to Chronic Myocarditis, Rupture of thoracic Aneurism, Cerebral Embolism.

Of the 14 deaths amongst European Non-Officials 8 were due to Yellow Fever, two to Blackwater Fever and one each to Alcoholism, Fracture of skull, Cerebral Malaria, Cyanide poisoning.

The average daily number of European Officials on the Sick List compared to the average daily number resident in the Colony was 2.42 per cent as compared with 2.96 in 1922-23. Treatment was given in 5,963 cases of Malaria, 551 cases of Dysentery, 534 cases of Pneumonia, 411 cases of Tuberculosis, 44 cases of Plague and two of Smallpox. Six cases of Sleeping Sickness were treated during the year.

Sanitation.

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There has been no outbreak of smallpox though nine cases were reported, eight in the Northern Territories and one in the Colony

The number of vaccinations performed was 82,425 and 36,468 or 44.24 % were reported as successful.

Climate.

The climate, though hot and damp, is cooler than that of most tropical countries situated in the same latitude.

It is not in itself unhealthy ; but an evil reputation has been earned for it in the past by the prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases, against which all possible precautions have constantly to be taken.

The Gold Coast is peculiarly free from many of the discomforts associated with tropical countries ; hot nights and intense heat by day are the exception rather than the rule, while insects are comparatively unobtrusive.

The efforts of the Medical and Sanitary authorities in promoting the treatment of disease and the knowledge of general hygiene, continue to exercise a beneficial effect on the general health of Europeans.

The rainfall varies with the configuration of the country and is highest in the mining districts of Tarkwa, Upper and Lower Wasaw, etc., and also at Axim. The first rains, or rainy season proper, begin in March and end in July : the latter rains are spread over the months of September and October. The rainy season is marked by a considerable fall in the temperature, which is found to be refreshing to many Europeans, but proves trying to some. The Harmattan season begins in December and ends in February.

METEOROLOGY.

Rainfall in Inches.

1st January to 31st December.

Place.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Accra	15.87	34.43	27.70	21.16
Aburi	36.40	50.83	52.09	43.14
Sekondi	34.65	40.40	46.19	39.29
Axim	66.43	88.13	60.45	109.18
Tarkwa	68.19	71.05	*58.99	71.72
Kumasi	50.98	66.94	61.95	55.75
Tamale	36.95	61.97	37.02	36.03

*11 months records only.

At Accra the mean shade temperature was 81.0, and at Kumasi and Sekondi 79.4 and 79.8 respectively.

The mean daily range of temperature in Accra was 15.6.

X. POLICE.**The Establishment.**

The authorised establishment of the Force in the Colony and Ashanti on the 31st March, 1924, was 1,490, composed as follows:—

General Police	..	..	.	.	..	463
Escort Police	..	..	..	.	.	806
Marine Police	..	.	..	..	..	34
Recruits	.	..	..	..	..	79
Disciplinary Staff, etc.			..	..	..	64
Band	..	..	..	..	..	28
Band Learners	.	..	..	..	..	16

Togoland.

In the British Mandated Area of Togoland the Police Force consists of one European Police Officer (seconded from the Gold Coast Police), two Superintendents, one Assistant Superintendent of Police, three Sergeants, four Corporals, forty Constables, four Recruits.

Recruits.

The number of recruits enlisted was 215 as against 238 for 1922-23. The casualties 40 for both periods.

The General Police.

This Branch is gradually becoming literate, an increase of some two score of scholars being registered as against the previous period, the number of illiterates decreasing by 15.

The Escort Police.

The strength is maintained and, generally speaking, a good type of men is secured.

There is no difficulty in obtaining recruits for all casualties occurring and the supply is greater than the demand.

The Marine Police.

These as their name signifies are Customs harbour police, as opposed to the Customs Preventive or river police.

They are a valuable adjunct to the Force and at the present time they only do duty at Accra and Sekondi, a force for Winneba not yet having been established.

The Police Band.

The Band, though not having a European Bandmaster, plays very creditably and is a great acquisition to the public before whom it performed on nearly three hundred occasions during the period under review.

Legislation.

Certain small amendments were made to the Police Ordinance, and new Sections affecting the Police were added to the Motor Traffic Ordinance.

Revenue.

The revenue collected by the Escort Police for escorting specie and bullion was £368.

The number of new licences issued for motor vehicles in Accra during the last three years is as follows :—

1921.	1922-23.	1923-24.
455	425	1,278

1,307 new driving licences were issued as against 382 for the period 1922-23. The revenue for new licences and renewals (motor and driving) was £15,036 11s. od. as against £4,757 17s. 3d. for the period before.

The Police undertook the duty of issuing licences under the motor Traffic Ordinance on the 1st January, 1923.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts of the Colony during 1922-1923 and 1923-1924 was as follows :—

	1922-23.	1923-24.
Offences against the person	16	15
Slave dealing	—	—
Offences against property	86	54
Other Offences	11	5
	<hr/> 113 <hr/>	<hr/> 74 <hr/>

There were 41 acquittals in 1923-24 as compared with 30 in 1922-23.

The number of summary convictions in 1922-1923 and 1923-1924 was as follows :—

	1922-23.	1923-24.
Offences against the person	1,837	1,576
Slave dealing	—	—
Offences against property	2,339	1,907
Other Offences	6,042	6,802
	<hr/> 10,218 <hr/>	<hr/> 10,285 <hr/>

There were 5,438 acquittals in 1923-1924 as compared with 5,864 in 1922-1923.

Civil Actions.

There were 407 civil actions brought in the Divisional Courts of the Colony during 1923-1924.

Court fees and fines collected during 1923-1924 amounted to £6,657 1s. 5d. as compared with £7,126 6s. 3d. in the previous year. The number of Writs of Fi. Fa. (Fieri Facias) issued by the Courts for execution during the year was 423 involving an amount of £31,728 4s. 1½d. of which £8,624 17s. 5½d. was collected. In the previous year there were 409 Writs of Fi. Fa. issued involving the sum of £17,455 7s. 3d.

The number of Writs of Ca. Sa. (Capias Satisfaciendum) issued during the year was 1,199 involving an amount of £31,546 7s. 11½d. whereof a sum of £7,105 16s. 3½d. was collected. In the previous year there were 448 Writs of Ca. Sa. involving an amount of £16,257 1s. 0½d.

XI.—PRISONS.

The following remarks and statistics refer to Prisons in the Colony, Ashanti and the mandated territory of Togoland (information as to Prisons in the Northern Territories being contained in the annual report on the Northern Territories).

The Staff of the Prisons Department in 1923-24 consisted of nine European Officers (an Inspector-General, Deputy Inspector-General, five Prison Superintendents and two Technical Instructors), one Assistant Prison Superintendent, 288 African Warders of various grades on the establishment, and about 112 Temporary Warders, whilst five Matrons attended the female prisoners.

There are in the Colony 14 prisons, in Ashanti six and in the mandated territory of Togoland two. The Prisons at Accra, Sekondi and Kumasi are in the charge of Prison Superintendents, the others being supervised by District Commissioners. The Sekondi Central Prison is used solely for male prisoners undergoing long sentences, whilst Accra and Kumasi take both long and short-sentence convicts. There is separate accommodation for females at Accra, Elmina, Keta and Kumasi.

The average daily average number of prisoners during 1923-24 was 1,463 as compared with 1,635 in 1922-23. Of these 1,001 were distributed amongst the four Central Prisons as under:—

Accra (Ussher Fort and James Fort) ..	374	{ including 162 long-sentence. }
Sekondi Central	295	{ all long-sentence prisoners. }
Cape Coast	49	{ including nine long-sentence. }
Kumasi	188	{ including 52 long-sentence. }

The total number of persons committed to prison during 1923-24 was 5,541 as compared with 6,142 in 1922-23. Of the total committals 60 per cent were for penal imprisonment, ten per cent were for debt and the remaining 30 per cent for safe keeping pending trial. There were 206 females and 13 juveniles received during the year.

There were 12 executions, ten at Sekondi, two at Accra and one at Ho.

There were 47 escapes and 24 recaptures, as compared with forty and nine respectively in 1922-23. Sanitary labour including bush-clearing, etc., and involving dispersion in small gangs, was chiefly responsible for the escapes.

Thirty-two persons died whilst undergoing imprisonment, as compared with 29 in 1922-23 a verdict of death from natural causes being returned in each case.

The daily average on the sick list was 3.2 per cent.

The cost of the department for the year under review was £44,377 as compared with £44,600 in 1922-23, the average cost of each prisoner being £30. 6s. 2d. On the other hand a sum of £7,378 was received in payment for prison industries, as against a sum of £6,924 in 1922-23. Rations cost £7,476 being a decrease of £1,433 on the previous year. The continued decrease is accounted for by the development of the prison farms, more particularly the large farm at Kumasi.

The net cost of the department was £36,999 and the net average cost of each prisoner was £25. 5s. 6d.

The carpenters', shoemakers', and tailors' shops at Accra and Sekondi were fully occupied; in fact, work was refused on account of the congestion in the shops.

At Sekondi basket-making and mat-weaving shops were also busy throughout the year.

At Accra the building of a new prison on the site of the old Ussher Fort made good progress, the work being done entirely by prison labour under supervision of the prison staff. These works afforded ample instruction and practice in brick laying, joinery, shuttering, etc., for a number of prisoners. The prisoners employed in the shops and in the skilled labour connected with the building above mentioned were long sentence prisoners. At Kumasi a new female prison was built, also by prison labour, as a beginning of general reconstruction of the prison.

Short-sentence prisoners were employed mostly under the Sanitary and Public Works Department.

XII.—POSTAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The business dealt with by the Department during the year under review as compared with the previous year was as follows :—

	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£
Sale of stamps for postal purposes	28,195	27,387
Number of letters and Postcards received and despatched	5,840,232	6,431,020
Registered packets	571,152	663,600
Book packets	1,215,480	1,480,668
Parcels	116,479	123,075
Money Orders (value)	138,283	138,539
Postal Orders (value)	171,912	181,814
Postal Orders (number)	234,198	249,931
Inland Telegrams (private)	301,924	293,091
Inland Telegrams (official)	112,470	83,372

There were 164 offices in the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories open at the end of the financial year of which 116 were Postal Agencies.

The Post Office Savings Bank business transacted shews an increase in deposits as compared with 1922. The deposits made totalled 9,826 and amounted to £34,118 in value, an increase of 1,943 in number and £3,790 in value as compared with the previous year.

The number of withdrawals was 5,275 value £35,684 shewing a decrease of 517 in number and an increase of £4,169 in value as compared with 1922.

The average value of each deposit was £3. 9s. 5d. as against £3. 16s. 11d. in 1922 and of each withdrawal £6 15s. 4d. as against £5. 9s. 11d. The number of depositors at the end of the year was 5,798 and the amount standing to the credit of these accounts was £50,961, an increase of 546 in number but a decrease of £55 in amount.

The number of paid and official telegrams transmitted shews a decrease and is attributable to the extension of telephone facilities coupled with the reduction in time of transit of letters owing to the opening of the Accra-Kumasi Railway.

The number of Telegraph Offices open during the year was 92.

The cable traffic dealt with in conjunction with the African Direct Telegraph Company was approximately the same as in the previous year. The number of forwarded and received messages was 21,542 as against 21,431 in 1922-23.

The number of private messages received and forwarded by the Wireless Station at Accra was 1,702 a decrease of 17 as compared with those for the previous year.

The official and private subscribers to the Telephone Exchanges increased very considerably during the year and the trunk calls more than trebled in number with the gradual extension of the Trunk Telephone facilities.

XIII.—RAILWAYS.

The total mileage open for traffic at the close of the financial year 1923-24 was 394.

The main line runs in a northerly direction from the port of Sekondi to Kumasi in Ashanti, a distance of 168 miles (gauge 3' 6"), thence to Accra in a south-easterly direction, a further distance of 192 miles.

The Branch Lines (3' 6" gauge) operated from the Sekondi-Juaso Section are the Tarkwa-Prestea Branch with a length of 18 miles running in a north-westerly direction from Tarkwa, and the Inchaban Branch which runs in an easterly direction taking off the main line at 4½ miles from Sekondi and having a length of 3½.

The only Branch operated from the Accra Line is the Weshiang Branch (2' 6" gauge) which runs from Accra to Weshiang, a distance of 10 miles.

Finance.

The total Capital Expenditure on the 31st of March, 1924 stood at £6,720,089.

The gross revenue amounted to £1,024,781, an increase of £146,888 as compared with the gross revenue for the year 1922-23.

The working expenditure was £541,230 an increase of £142,890 on the 1922-23 working.

The net revenue was £483,551, an increase of £3,998 over 1922-23.

The general financial result is as follows :—

Loan Charges.

(a) Interest	£293,392
(b) Sinking Fund	47,171
(c) Expenses of Managing Loan	614
	<hr/>
	341,177
Pensions	8,999
Total	£350,176
Net Receipts	483,551
	<hr/>
	£133,375

Traffic.

The number of passenger conveyed during the year 1923-24 was 1,334,756, a decrease of 10,938 from the year 1922-23.

The total tonnage carried for the year 1923-24 was 595,657, an increase of 116,513 over 1922-23.

The principal increases are :—

Commodity.	Increase over 1922-23.				
					Tons.
Building Material	2,889
Coal	8,355
Cocoa	21,254
Manganese	106,362
Logs Exported	1,798
Minerals	15,082
Mining Material	1,701

The principal decreases are :—

Commodity.	Decrease under 1922-23.				
					Tons.
Firewood	17,695
Native Produce	2,464

Deviations.

Deviations, consisting of re-aligning to cut out curves and ease grades and relaying the track with 80 lb. rails and sleepers in place of the original 50 lb. track, were completed from Sekondi to Dunkwa (100 miles) by the middle of December. The work of carrying "Deviations" through from Dunkwa to Obuasi (24 miles) was commenced in October and will be completed before the Cocoa season of 1924-25.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.**Tafo-Kumasi Railway Extension.**

Rails were linked up on the first day of the financial year under review.

The line was completed and formally declared open for traffic by the Acting Governor, Dr. Maxwell, on July 5th, and open to public traffic on September 3rd, 1923.

2. A saving on Estimate of over £103,500 has to be reported on final completion after allowance has been made for a sum already allotted to Open Lines for maintenance etc,

Central Province Railway Construction.

3. On approval being received from Secretary of State for the building of the Central Province Railway arrangements were at once made for the transfer of staff and materials to the New Headquarters at the proposed point of take-off of the Central Province Railway from the main line, namely, Huni Valley.

4. The Camp previously occupied by Deviations became available as quarters and the only structures requiring to be erected were Store Shed (140' x 30'), Temporary Office Extensions and Tank, etc., for locomotive requirements.

The value of the plant and materials taken over from the Tafo-Kumasi for the New Construction has been assessed at a figure of £8,461 which assessment Government has sanctioned.

5. Arrangements were made for the leave of the majority of Officers of the Tafo-Kumasi Construction so that the maximum personnel of the Department would be available in the Colony at the beginning of the dry season 1923-24.

6. Orders were placed for material (amounting in value to almost (£250,000) for the Central Province line during the period His Excellency and the Chief Resident Engineer were in England and an appreciable saving was effected by advantage being taken of the comparatively low markets then obtaining in Great Britain.

7. The Construction programme includes a bridge over the River Pra near Mampong, 30 miles from Huni Valley. This is to be the largest bridge in the Colony and will be so decked as to enable road vehicles to pass over when no train is in section. To enable work on the abutments and piers to commence and continue throughout the last dry season, a road was constructed by the Department from Imbraim to the Bridge site and contract for the transportation of cement, foodstuff etc, from Imbraim station was let at the low figure of rs. 8d. per ton-mile. The construction of this road has been amply justified, more especially in view of the abnormally heavy earthworks to be carried out before railhead can reach the Pra.

8. The area between Huni Valley and the River Pra is thinly populated and although previous requests had been made to the local farmers to produce increase quantities of foodstuffs little or no effort in this direction was made, the result being that it was impossible to secure and maintain as strong a labour force as the heavy nature of the works called for. The situation had therefore to be speedily dealt with and conditions were brought up to a more normal standard by the importation and distribution of rice at retail prices whilst the Department also granted transport facilities to Eddoe Suppliers so that there is now a constant and adequate supply of food.

9. The preliminaries incidental to starting a new Railway Construction are so considerable and superficially non-effective that the actual progress of track in the early months is below the average of what the whole will be.

10. Clearing of a width of 200 feet and through the densest variety of virgin heavy forest was completed from Huni Valley to the River Pra.

Earthworks.

11. A total of 206,000 cubic yards has been handled in Banks and Cuts during the period.

Rails.

12. These reached eight miles, the track being fully ballasted boxed and packed to seven miles.

Stations.

13. Good progress was made in the junction station at Huni Valley.

Damang Station (mile 5½) was nearly completed and Subiri (mile 13) was in progress.

14. Bridges and Culverts were completed to mile eight and concrete for the Bansa Bridge ready for its 55' span.

15. The basis of the whole organisation of Construction is, as on Tafo-Kumasi, an elaborate extension of the local petty contract of piecework system.

The advantages of this have been stated in other Reports but may be repeated as follows :—

- (i) The restriction of Contractor's percentage for overhead charges, risk and profit to the most modest dimensions.
- (ii) The elimination alternatively, of large and expensive European salaried staff, as in Nigeria, if "direct" labour is employed.
- (iii) The knowledge at any time, that value is being received for all money on Construction and of exactly what it consists.
- (iv) The ratio of European overhead (i.e. Establishment) to Cost of Works is reduced.

XIV. HARBOUR WORKS.

Accra Harbour.

7. The following improvement to Accra Harbour Works were completed and handed over to the Public Works Department on the 10th July, 1923, with the exception of item No. 4, under the heading of Macadamised Roads, which were considered too light for the heavy traffic and were subsequently improved by a 4" layer of tar macadam and duly completed in December, 1923.

- (1) Import building having a floor area of 80,000 square feet.
- (2) Railway Marshalling Yards on reclaimed beach area to the west of Breakwater and new Railway approaches.
- (3) Railway Siding to the Steel Jetty at the east end of the Harbour and to the Customs enclosure.
- (4) Macadamised Roads serving the Customs Buildings and the Jetty, and a macadamised area for turning and parking motor lorries at the north end of the Import Buildings.

Sekondi Harbour.

8. Owing to the silting of the Harbour the cranes on the east side of Jetties numbers 3 and 4 cannot be used.

The tonnage dealt with has increased out of proportion to the available accommodation.

Deep Water Harbour—Takoradi.

It was generally conceded that the trade of the Colony during the past few years had proved conclusively the total inadequacy of the existing port accommodation, and that a new Deep Water Harbour was essential, if the development of the trade of the Colony was to be encouraged instead of strangled. In 1921 it was decided to proceed with the Construction of such a Harbour at Takoradi, where the most suitable site, if not the only one existing on the Colony's seaboard, lent itself to economical construction. It is located in the large and well sheltered bay west of Sekondi, and admits of ample extensions, as and when trade requirements demand further accommodation.

The work as now being carried out is estimated to cost £1,600,000 and consists mainly of three parts (1) a Railway connecting Takoradi with the Sekondi-Kumasi line, embodying a Passenger Station, a Goods Station, marshalling yard, etc. (2) a motor road connecting Sekondi and Takoradi. (3) New Harbour comprising main and lee breakwaters, wharfage for branch boats and lighters, transit sheds, rail and road connections, etc., etc.

The area of the open tidal basin to be enclosed by the breakwaters is approximately 260 acres with a depth of water varying from five to 40 feet below L.W.L.O.S.T. As regards Construction Progress this has not been quite up to expectations. The temporary and preliminary works which as can readily be understood, were of some considerable extent for an undertaking of this magnitude, have, however, been accomplished. Examples of such works are, the 25 miles (approx.) of track laid, which included some heavy excavation. This mileage solely covers all service and construction track in use on the quarries, the single

main line with sidings from there to Takoradi with its connections along the foreshore to the Gold Coast Railway line at Sekondi Harbour, also the tracks laid for the construction of the main road from Sekondi to Takoradi, and the operating lines on the Harbour area leading on to the main and lee breakwaters. In connection with the building of the track from Sekondi to Takoradi over 600 lin: feet of temporary wooden bridging was undertaken.

Extensive camps for the European Construction Staff have been built at both Sekondi and Takoradi.

A permanent European Hospital splendidly equipped has been erected at Takoradi. The central block is double storied and the wings on each side are designed so that a second storey can be built upon them when required. The building at present affords accommodation for 20 patients.

A semi-permanent Native Hospital has also been built at Takoradi which is in like manner finely equipped.

The permanent works now under construction are:—The breakwaters to which stone is train hauled from quarries seven miles distant. At the end of the period under review a total of 20,887 cubic yards of rock had been dumped in the breakwaters as follows:—Main breakwater 18,267 cubic yards, lee breakwater 2,620 cubic yards; and trestling to the extent of 1,241 and 315 lin: feet erected in main and lee breakwaters respectively.

The connecting Railway is completed, but at present, only a portion of it is laid with 80 lbs. permanent way material—the rest being temporary track. The motor road between Sekondi and Takoradi, the earthworks of which are completed with exception of that portion at the end of the road approaching the Harbour Site near to the lee breakwater. The permanent bridge and culvert work on this road is partially completed.

Progress is being made in the reclamation of land between the main and lee breakwaters, whereon provision is made for a Passenger Station, a Goods Station, marshalling yards, etc., etc., with ample approach facilities.

In March last a Commissioner was sent out from England to investigate and report on the Construction of this Harbour. His report had not been published at the end of the financial year under review.

XV.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

During the year the methods and organization of the Public Works Department were closely examined by Sir Sydney Crookshank, who visited the Colony for this purpose. He expressed satisfaction with the Department and its work generally and made a number of suggestions which are being acted on.

In general, conditions as to labour and materials were satisfactory, labour, both skilled and unskilled, being plentiful, and the cost of materials shewing a decided decrease.

The outstanding event of the year, from a building point of view, was the completion of the new Gold Coast Hospital. The major portion was formally opened by His Excellency on October 9th, 1923; the remainder being handed over to the Medical Department by the following January.

A commencement was made with another scheme of the very greatest importance, viz. :—the installation of Electric Light and Power in Accra. The Contractors, Messrs Sir William Arrol and Company, made a commencement in 1923 and work was well advanced at the close of the period under review.

A third scheme, of great importance which has been commenced, is the erection of a Light House at Cape three Points. This is the principal turning point for ships making for Sekondi, etc., and the old light has long been considered inadequate and has been a source of complaint for years. A new and up-to-date Light-house is being constructed.

Apart from the foregoing items, the bulk of the work executed was of an ordinary character, but reference may be made in connection with the large roadwork programme carried out, to the Nkawaw-Mpraeso and Odumase-Bokunu Roads, which were built entirely by the Chiefs and people, their construction being a very creditable achievement. There are now over 3,500 miles of motorable road in the country.

Under the heading of Recurrent Expenditure, a determined effort was made to overtake the painting of Government Buildings, a large increase in the vote being approved and a definite programme drawn up. Great strides were made during the year and the result must be in the long run, economical.

The more important works in progress or completed were :—

Hospitals, etc.

New Gold Coast Hospital.

Keta Native Hospital.

Mortuary at Nsawam.

Schools.

Extension of Training College, Accra.

Extension of Girls' School, Accra.

Extension of Girls' School, Kumasi.

Prisons, etc.

Ussher Fort :—Re-building and extensions.

This work is being continued on a definite progressive plan by Prison labour, assistance being given by the Public Works Department. The result of training Prisoners as Masons, Carpenters, etc., during their term of imprisonment is having beneficial results, while the work is being done cheaply.

Police Guard Room near Gold Coast Hospital.

Female Prison, Kumasi.

Quarters.

A special effort was made during the year to overtake the Quarters deficiency throughout the Colony, and the erection of a large number of Bungalows was approved and work put in hand. In all, 44 Bungalows of various types were commenced or completed throughout the colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories. In addition to this the old Survey Office at Cantonments, Accra, was re-modelled and now forms an Officers Mess and Quarters for six Officers. New Survey Offices were built, and new Military Lines were completed at Accra.

Court Houses, Post Offices and Offices.

District Commissioner's Court House, Ho.

Chief Commissioner's Offices, Kumasi.

New Post Office, Bekwai.

Workshops.

The new Public Works Department Shops in Accra are practically complete and are waiting until power is available before work is started. The new Stores, etc., are all occupied, and a portion of the old Public Works Department Stores has been handed over to the Town Council.

Town Improvements and Drainage.

The outstanding event under this heading was the installation of a pipe-borne sewerage system, with Imhoff and Septic tanks at the new Gold Coast Hospital. The work is completed and acting most satisfactorily.

During the year the newly formed Municipal Engineering Staff took over the construction and maintenance of the surface water drainage under the superintendence of the Senior Sanitary Engineer, and a considerable amount of work was carried out.

A commencement was made with the layout of a new market at Achimota at the junction of the new road leading up to the site of Achimota College.

The construction of the new Railway line Accra to Kumasi has resulted in the rapid expansion of the towns along the route, and special efforts have been made to have layout plans prepared so that the extension of these towns will be carried out on proper lines.

Valuation and compensation work in connection with the Cape Coast Congested area proceeded satisfactorily.

Accra Water Works.

The new Power House was completed and brought into operation and the engines give very good results.

The construction of a weir across the Densu was commenced.

Sekondi Water Works.

Nothing beyond ordinary maintenance work was carried out during the year but the water, after treatment with Aluminium Sulphate, continues to be very satisfactory.

Winneba Water Supply.

This is now in full working order and the provision of a pure water supply to Winneba is a great boon to the inhabitants.

Cape Coast Water Supply.

The preparation of this scheme was unfortunately stopped owing to the death of the Senior Hydraulic Engineer, and no successor had been appointed at the close of the year.

Kumasi Water Supply.

Nothing has been done in connection with the main Scheme for a water supply to Kumasi beyond taking guagings, etc., but the provision of tanks to Bungalows was taken in hand and investigations undertaken as to the possibility of constructing a temporary supply.

Roads.

The mileage of main trade roads, which are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department, is now 1,173 miles as against 1,033 miles in 1922-23.

Pioneer road construction continues to give gratifying results, the number of miles now open being bringing the total mileage of pioneer roads to 2,186.

The "Tarmet" system of road surfacing has been widely extended throughout the Colony and Ashanti and continues to prove most successful. This method of road construction was closely examined by Sir Sydney Crookshank during his visit to the Colony, who approved of it, and a greatly extended programme of work is now in preparation.

Nsawam Bridge.

The very important work of taking down the old wooden bridge, which is 278 feet long and carries very heavy traffic and replacing with steel joints, etc., was completed.

Narkwa Bridge.

A fine reinforced bridge of 60 feet clear span was constructed at Okyeso.

Dunkwa-Wioso Road.

Construction was pushed forward to the Ankobra River (40 miles) which is now road head, and all bridges and culverts are of permanent construction.

Great North Road.

Steady work is being accomplished on this road, on the swamps at Makongo and Yamalaga, and in the re-construction of the Prang and Afram Bridges.

XVI.—TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

The Motor Transport Department continued to operate successfully as a separate Department with the reduced staff and fleet strength.

2. Motor Transport sections were maintained throughout the year at Accra, Sekondi, Kumasi and Ho. The small Motor Transport station at Koforidua was closed down on 1st October and the vehicles disposed of.

3. The balance of Government Motor Transport requirements throughout the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories was hired from the Contractors for the year, Messrs. Elder's Road Transport, Ltd.

4. The Mule Transport section with new carts and animals, operated throughout the year at Accra.

5. Government Stores and Materials and Officials' Baggage were handled efficiently at the ports of Accra and Sekondi and at the Railway terminus Kumasi.

6. The maintenance of the Government Rest House at Sekondi was continued and the catering improved and extended to include the provision of cold luncheons for mailboat passengers proceeding to Kumasi and the Northern Territories by train.

XVII.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.**AURIFEROUS DEPOSITS.****Banda (Western Ashanti) district.**

Some further work was done on the coarse and fine sericitic quartz conglomerates, breccia-conglomerates and grits in this district. The results obtained from the banket (auriferous conglomerate) of the Banda Range, between the Tomme (Tambe) and the Wowa gaps, suggest that careful and extensive prospecting would probably prove the occurrence of a profitable banket reef. In this region there is a vast area that should be thoroughly prospected. The best period of the year for this work would be from April to December, when water could be obtained easily for panning purposes.

Bole District, Northern Territories.

To the north east of Bole two well defined quartz reefs, giving good prospect of gold by hand crushing and panning, were discovered. They are worthy of careful examination and testing.

The old native goldfield east of Wasipe was examined and tested but though a little coarse gold was found, sporadically distributed, the field was deemed to be of little value.

Mamprussi North District, Northern Territories.

During the rapid day-to-day traverse from Wa to the north western corner of the Northern Territories, thence eastward across them to Bawka and southward to Gambaga good prospects of alluvial gold were found in the Sissili River, and between Zenbilla and Gogo. Owing to the exigencies of travelling in this manner the occurrence could not be properly tested.

Manganese Deposits in the Northern Territories.

The reconnaissances through these Territories resulted in the discovery of deposits of manganese ore of fair to poor quality at twelve different localities, along at least four parallel, but widely separated lines from the south of Bole to Bangwon, north of Lawra, close to the northern boundary of the Territories. These lines trend roughly north-east and appear to indicate the repetition by folding of a widespread bed of series of beds of manganiferous sediments.

Limestone Deposits.

A large outcrop of dolomitic limestone was found near Kolenso in the Bole district, Northern Territories. It occurs in the Volta Series close to the Black Volta River,—as in the case of the deposits of good limestone near Bwipe, some 16 miles to the north east, which were discovered some years ago. Analyses of this stone are being made. Should they prove to be of value the limestone can be easily obtained by water transport for district uses when required.

Bauxite Deposit.

On the summit of Mie Mountain, some 15 miles west of Abofuo, on the Kumasi—Techiman road, a deposit of bauxite was discovered. It forms a cap on the mountain, which is more than two miles in length and covered with thick bush. Its extent could not be determined at the time. Some of the bauxite is of good quality, the remainder, fairly to highly ferriferous.

General Geology.

The reconnaissances in the Northern Territories, particularly in the Black Volta basin, and between Navrongo and Bawku revealed certain field relations of the rocks. This has given the Survey a great deal of most useful information, such as has been searched for during the past few years.

Kumasi Water Supply.

Geological examinations and reports were made of the upper portion of the Ofin River and of portion of the Adra River in connection with the proposed permanent water supply of the town of Kumasi. The evidence obtained proved the possibility of such supplies being suitable.

XVIII. MINES DEPARTMENT.

The following table shows the export of mineral products from the Gold Coast and its Dependencies for the year 1923-1924.

	1922-1923.		1923-1924.	
	Amount.	Value.	Amount.	Value.
Gold	204,073 Fine ounces	£866,901	200,703 Fine ounces	£852,548
Manganese ..	76,996 Tons	129,696	181,623 Tons	410,182
Diamonds ..	7,287 Carats	9,040	30,419 Carats	34,223
Total ..	—	£1,005,637	—	£1,296,953

Gold Calculated at £4.248 per fine ounce.

Manganese F.O.B. Sekondi.

Diamonds 22s. 6d. per carat.

During the year under review the output of Gold has declined by 3,370 ounces, but on the other hand Manganese and Diamonds have both made considerable advances.

The increase in Manganese amounts to 104,627 tons ; and the export of Diamonds exceeds that of 1922-1923 by 23,132 carats.

This upwards tendency in regard to Manganese is still being maintained and 1924-25 is confidently expected to be a record year.

Gold.

The Mines producing on the conglomerate reef are Abosso, Abbontiakoon and Tarkwa.

Abosso and Tarkwa are now amalgamated and together from the Tarkwa and Abosso Consolidated under joint management. Tarkwa Mine ore is transported to Abosso by railway for treatment.

This Company is also opening up the adjacent Adjah Bippo Mine. Quartz reefs in the Colony were worked by Prestea Block A, Kanyiankor Limited and Akoko Main Reef.

Prestea Block A has adopted the mineral separation process for ore treatment and a new policy of development is being carried out at Akoko in order to increase the output.

The Chichiwelli property situated some 25 miles East of Tarkwa has not reached the production stage.

At Simpa Reefs a property about 20 miles south of Tarkwa development operations have commenced.

In Ashanti, the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation still retains its premier position as the leading Mine in the Colony in spite of the fact that the new treatment of the ore failed to realise expectations.

This Company's report for the year foreshadows a return to the earlier roasting process.

The Obuasi Mines Limited at Obuom appear to be marking time pending reconstruction.

Alluvial Gold to the amount of 2,692 ozs. was obtained from the Offin River by dredging and from the old bed of the Pupuposu in the Akim District by hydraulic mining.

Manganese Ore.

The African Manganese Company have installed two steam shovels, seven miles of light railway and a washing plant. The greater output of Manganese awaits the development of Takoradi Harbour.

Diamonds.

The African Selection Trust at Akwatia are opening up their property and their efforts are reflected in the increase of diamonds produced.

The size of the diamonds still remains small but there appears to be no difficulty in finding a market.

Labour.

The average number of natives employed in the Mining industry during the year was 11,995. In 1922-1923 it was 10,929. 600 of the increase were factors in the higher Manganese production and another 100 have been absorbed by Chichiwelli.

The operation of the African Selection Trust have also contributed to swell these figures.

834 boys were recruited in the Northern Territories during the year 1923-1924; of these 783 arrived at the Mines; the remainder deserted on the way down.

To ease the labour situation the Government of Nigeria permitted recruiting to take place in Nigeria and a number of boys were obtained.

On the whole these boys have turned out to be satisfactory workers. However, the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory hammer boys still remains and until some solution of the labour problem has been arrived at no important increase in the output of gold can be expected.

Prospecting.

Twenty-one licences to prospect were issued in the Colony and three in Ashanti during the year 1923-1924.

Up to the present no important discoveries have been reported as a result of this prospecting activity.

XIX. SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

The most striking features of the work of the year are the increase in the demands made on the department, both by the general public and by other Government Departments, and also the increase in the efficiency of the African technical staff, who have been trained in the department, and who are now in such a state of efficiency that their services have enabled the Survey Department to meet the increase demands made on it. In the field and in the Drawing and Printing Offices, the effect of efficient training of African subordinates is clearly seen in the increased output.

2. The organisation, and a brief history of the department since its re-opening after the war, have already been described in the Report for the Blue Book for the financial year 1922-23, so that there is no need to repeat these details here. The organisation there described has proved to be a suitable and convenient one and, with the exception of the addition of an Examination Section and a Special Framework Party to the Cadastral Branch, still exists as the fundamental organisation of the department.

The Cadastral Branch.

3. Probably the most interesting feature to record in connection with the Cadastral Branch is the commencement of work, on modern lines, of a first class framework which should prove of immense value in the years to come. A Special Party, consisting of an Officer-in-Charge, two European assistants, and one European Computer, have been allowed for, but the officer-in-charge did not arrive until December 26th, 1923, his assistant not until February 21st, and the Computer not until March 19th, 1924. The second European assistant has not arrived yet.

4. One of the subjects of the Special Framework Party has been to carry out rapid traverse work with an accuracy comparing favourably with the results of triangulation. For this purpose, a special apparatus has been designed by the department and constructed by Messrs. Cooke, Troughton & Simms. It is too early yet to obtain an idea of the real accuracy obtained, as no closure has yet been effected, but a very satisfactory rate of progress has been obtained, in spite of the full staff allowed for not being available. It is hoped to obtain an accuracy

on framework traverses of between $\frac{1}{60,000}$ and $\frac{1}{100,000}$ with this apparatus.

5. In the various provinces, a good deal of miscellaneous work has been carried out. This includes a Town Survey of Keta, a number of special sheets of the Kumasi Town Survey, required for special purposes by the Sanitary and Municipal authorities, various surveys around Accra including contoured surveys of the site for Achimota College, and of the Sisal Plantation, various land surveys, etc. Altogether, fifty-five surveys of importance were dealt with, in addition to minor work.

6. Owing to the Superintendent of Lands and Boundaries having been seconded for service with the Legal Department, in connection with the Takoradi Land case, the work of the Lands Branch has been at a complete standstill during the period under review.

7. A considerable number of surveys in land dispute cases were made by licensed surveyors under the supervision of the department. Licensed surveyors had also a number of Concession Surveys in hand at the end of the year.

8. A series of tidal observations were taken at Accra and preparations have been made for the instalment, during the coming year, of an automatic tide gauge at Takoradi, which will provide useful data regarding the tides at the new harbour.

The Topographical Branch.

9. By the end of the present field season (June, 1924), about 24,000 square miles will have been topographically surveyed on the scale 1/62,500 (one inch to the mile). This makes an addition of about 7,000 square miles for the year. Some framework was also carried out for

next year's work. The different survey parties employed during the year were divided into two groups, one of which was engaged in carrying the work towards the western frontier, and the other in extending the survey northwards.

10. In the west the country encountered was very difficult—dense bush, practically no roads and very few tracks, what tracks there were being in many cases overgrown with bush and stopped with fallen trees, so that movement on the part of carriers with loads became difficult. In addition, owing to the backward and developed nature of this stretch of country, food, both for European and labourers, was scarce and difficult to obtain, and special arrangements had often to be made for importation and carriage of rice for the labourers.

11. An interesting feature in connection with the work in the west was the traverse of the Tano River which was carried out in canoes, using Bar and Stroud range-finders, backward and forward readings being taken to a whitened cord. Considerable speed and sufficient accuracy to avoid errors on the scale of the map were obtained in conditions that would have quite prevented any decent progress by the usual method of filling in detail on large rivers in dense forest country by floating cable.

12. In the Topographical Branch, as in the Cadastral, considerable progress has been made in the training of African Surveyors. One African is now capable of surveying a field sheet entirely by himself with the same supervision that would be given to a European surveyor, while other Africans are rapidly reaching this standard also. The result of this is seen in the decreased cost of work, while the total output is greatly increased. Thus, the survey of a complete field sheet (excluding cost of inspection, checking and preparation for reproduction, and the period spent by European surveyors on leave in England, but including all time spent on actual field work, including sick) has decreased from £650 in 1922–23 to £556 in 1923–24, a reduction of almost 15 per cent on the cost for the financial year 1922–23. In the case of one camp which operated as an experiment and was entirely composed of Africans the cost was as low as £365. This figure includes the cost of one European supervising, and shows clearly what can be expected as the work of training Africans proceeds and as more Africans become proficient.

Reproduction and Records.

13. The better appearance of the sheets produced locally, which is, perhaps, the most noticeable thing in connection with the Reproduction Section, is largely due to the valuable help and criticism received from Colonel H. S. L. Winterbotham, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E., Chief of the Geographical Section of the General Staff, who, after examination of the earlier sheets produced in Accra, was able to suggest many practical changes which brought about superior results.

14. In addition to this, the African Draughtsmen, by whom the work is now performed, improved very considerably during the year, with visible benefit to the printed sheets. Many of these draughtsmen are now doing work which, three years ago, was being done by the Chief Draughtsman himself, with the result that the latter can now concentrate on supervision and training. The result, of course, is a very much larger output and a much better quality in the work turned out by the African staff.

15. One of the most gratifying features in the work of the year is the increased sense of usefulness which now exists regarding the work of the department—both in the department itself and amongst other departments and amongst the general public. This is seen, in out-stations, as well as in Accra itself, by the increased sale and issue of maps and plans. The following figures are interesting as an illustration of this :—

	1919	1920	1921	1922-23*	1923-24†
Sales to Public	£7	64	368	473	1,036
Issues to Government Departments	£30	160	677	1,975	1,698
	37	224	1,045	2,448	2,734

16. The figures given above include purely departmental sales and issues only—they do not include special work done for other departments, of which a great deal has been done in connection with the production of charts, diagrams, special maps, etc., for departmental reports and other Government publications. Amongst these were various maps and diagrams for the British Empire Exhibition ; charts and diagrams for the reprint of the Colony Handbook ; charts, illustrations, maps and diagrams for the Public Works, Customs, Forestry, Mines, and Agricultural Departments and for the Secretariat and Gold Coast Regiment. In addition, work was done for the Boy Scouts and also for various commercial firms.

17. As in other branches of the department, costs in the Reproduction Branch show a very decided tendency to decrease. The average cost of producing locally in five colours 300 copies of a topographical one-inch sheet works out at £32, while the cost of 24,000 diagrams printed for the Colony Handbook worked out at under 1½d. per diagram, some of the work being in colours.

* Change in Periods. (For 1st quarter 1922 total was £370).

† Does not include 1,368 sunprints made and issued.

18. In the Record Section of the branch a total of 67 fields sheets, complete with auxiliary sheets, village and river books, name lists, political tracings, boundary books, and field sheet reference books, have now been received. During the process of dealing with these records a valuable index of place-names, giving all information about each town or village in a handy form, is being compiled. The information thus obtained eventually will be published and will be available as Gazetteer of the Gold Coast.

The Survey School.

19. The Survey School, has now been in existence for three years and two pupils finally passed out in June, 1923, although they had not quite completed their three years since the school opened early in 1921. A further batch will be passed out finally in June, 1924.

20. The standard set at the school is a high one, and the class of pupil now sitting for the entrance examination has greatly improved since the school was first opened. This is due to the school and department becoming known and attracting a higher class of African.

Miscellaneous Work.

21. A re-organisation of personnel to meet increase of work in certain branches was carried out.

Further revision of the laws was done and much work on contemplated improvements was in hand.

Licensed surveyors were examined and their work checked. Practical help was given in road location and African personnel found and lent for this important work.

The review of a great quantity of information regarding the spelling of names was carried out.

A start was made on the compilation of a topographical layered map on the 1:250,000 scale (known as the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch) and the first sheet—ACCRA—is now being printed. A relief map of the railway area of the Gold Coast, for exhibit at the British Empire Exhibition, was constructed, entirely from the results of the new topographical survey, by Mr. W. J. O. Reeves of the Railway Department, who was assisted by the staff and draughtsmen of the Survey Department. This map was made by sawing up impressions from the one-inch sheets, on beaver board, along the 100-foot form lines.

XX.—WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1923 FOR THE GOLD COAST.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.

Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government Officers were furnished to the Government of the Gold Coast during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts. In addition, information relating to Gold Coast products was supplied to enquirers.

Shea Products.

The detailed examination of products of the Shea tree referred to in the statements for 1921 and 1922 has been continued.

Attempts have been made to devise a process for removing the unsaponifiable matter from shea butter, the presence of which reduces the value of the butter for the manufacture of edible fats. The problem presents many difficulties, but it has been found possible to prepare in the laboratory a fat containing only a low percentage of unsaponifiable matter. It is however uncertain whether the method could be applied economically on a commercial scale.

At the suggestion of the Imperial Institute the Department of Agriculture forwarded samples of Shea kernels from different districts and specimens of the butter prepared native processes for comparative examination. The results however did not show any important differences in the amount of unsaponifiable matter present in the fat.

Botanical specimens of Shea trees which were collected at Ejura and Kete Krachi in connection with this investigation were all considered at Kew to be typical of *Butyrospermum Parkii*.

A firm of manufacturers was supplied with particulars relating to shea nuts and shea butter, and to the work of the Agricultural Department in connection with the industry in the Gold Coast.

Neele Seed.

In connection with the previous investigation of "Neele" seed, which has now been identified at Kew as derived from *Citrullus vulgaris* Schrad., the Imperial Institute suggested that a larger quantity should be forwarded for commercial valuation as an oilseed. Seed received from the Northern Territories in response to this request yielded 45 per cent of an oil which was considered in the trade to be suitable for technical

purposes and probably also for edible use if suitably treated ; the residual meal was a fairly useful feeding stuff of somewhat higher value than cotton seed cake. The seed was valued at £17 to £18 per ton, and an offer to purchase a trial shipment of from 200 to 300 tons was obtained.

A small quantity of a variety of Neele seed grown in the Western Province was also received, which differed in appearance from the other samples examined. It also gave a lower yield of oil and the residual meal contained less protein and considerably more fibre. The oils from all the samples were practically identical in composition. A further sample of this Neele seed from the Western Province has been requested in order to ascertain whether the lower yield of oil is a constant feature of this variety.

Coffee.

Samples of *Coffea liberica*, *C. stenophylla* and *C. robusta*, grown at the Agricultural Station, Aburi, were forwarded in order to ascertain their quality with a view to the possible extension of the plantations. The coffees were of good appearance and commercial shipments of similar character would be readily saleable on the Continent and to some extent in the United Kingdom. In view of the preferential duty on British-grown coffee imported for home consumption, the Imperial Institute suggested that attention should be given in the Colony to the possibility of encouraging the production for export of Arabian coffee, which finds a ready sale in this country at higher prices than the above varieties.

Millet and Guinea Corn.

In connection with an enquiry regarding foodstuffs suitable for native employees of a mining company in the Gold Coast, information was furnished as to the varieties of millet and Guinea corn grown in the Colony, and samples of African millet and red and white Guinea corn were supplied.

Fibres.

A fibrous material derived from the inner bark of a tree (*probably Antiaris toxicaria*) proved to be unsuitable for spinning, but could be utilised for the preparation of paper pulp or as a source of cellulose for the manufacture of artificial silk.

Information regarding cotton cultivation and its possibilities in the Gold Coast was furnished to a Company owing estates in the Colony.

Timbers.

In connection with the selection of Gold Coast timbers for the British Empire Exhibition, 1924, the Conservator of Forests was supplied with a list of timbers from the Colony which would probably be suitable for use in the United Kingdom. Particulars of the characters and qualities of these timbers, and of the results of investigations of a number of them at the Imperial Institute, were also supplied.

Minerals.

In view of the high cost of building in the Gold Coast the Imperial Institute drew the attention of the Government to the occurrences of clays, shales and limestones in the Colony which might be suitable for the local manufacture of cement, bricks and tiles, and offered to co-operate in a detailed investigation of their possibilities.

Information was furnished to a firm in London as to occurrences of brick-making clays and limestones in the Colony.

Other enquiries relating to the Gold Coast dealt with during the period under review included soils for coconut plantations; manganese ores; mining and other industries.

Publications.

A Report on the Operations of the Imperial Institute was published as No. 1 of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute, Vol. XXI. (1923), in which reference was made to the work conducted for the Gold Coast in recent years.

The following articles of interest to the Colony were also published in the Bulletin during the year :—

The Trees of the Gold Coast.

Sisal Hemp Plantations in the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Court.

The site of the Court has been moved further east in the North Gallery and now occupies the whole bay with a floor space of 1,200 square feet.

The excellent exhibits of vegetable products which were transferred to the Imperial Institute at the close of the last International Rubber Exhibition held in London have now been effectively arranged. A special case has been devoted to cocoa; one to oil-palm products and copra; one to miscellaneous oil-seeds; one to kola nuts and rubber; one to fibres; and one to gum-copal and miscellaneous products.

The new map of the Gold Coast supplied by the Government has been placed on exhibition, together with a map of West Africa received from the War Office.

The statistical board showing area, population and trade has been brought up to date.

Lectures on the Gold Coast and Gold Coast products have been given to school children in the Court by the Guide Lecturer, and to members of the general public by Colonel M. C. Nangle, F.R.G.S.

A. A. C. FINLAY,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1923
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	"
1252	Ashanti	1923-1924
1253	Cyprus	1924
1254	Zanzibar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1257.

NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1204.)



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1925

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No. 1257.

NYASALAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.*

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

Boundaries.

The territory comprised in the Nyasaland Protectorate is a strip about 520 miles in length and varying from 50 to 100 miles in width. It lies approximately between latitude S. $9^{\circ} 45'$ and $17^{\circ} 16'$, and longitude E. 33° and 36° . The area is roughly 40,000 square miles, or about one-third the area of the British Isles. The most southerly portion of the Protectorate is about 130 miles from the sea as the crow flies.

This strip falls naturally into two divisions: (1) consisting of the western shore of Lake Nyasa, with the high tablelands separating it from the basin of the Luangwa river in Northern Rhodesia, and (2) the region lying between the watershed of the Zambesi river and Shire river on the west, and the Lakes Chiuta and Chilwa and the river Ruu, an affluent of the Shire, on the east, including the mountain systems of the Shire Highlands and Mlanje, and a small portion, also mountainous, of the south-eastern coast of Lake Nyasa.

The Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into three Provinces, the Southern, Central, and Northern, each of which is in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. Each Province is subdivided into districts in the charge of residents.

The chief towns are Blantyre, with about 300 European inhabitants, Limbe near Blantyre, and Zomba, the seat of the Government.

Historical.

Very little is known of the history of the region now called Nyasaland before the middle of the past century. Jasper Bocarro, a Portuguese, is said to have been the first European to visit Nyasaland; he appears to have travelled early in the 17th century from the Zambesi to the junction of the Ruu and Shire rivers, and thence via Lake Shirwa and the Lujenda river to the coast at Mikandani.

The real history of Nyasaland begins with the advent of Dr. Livingstone, who, after experiencing considerable difficulty

* A map of the Protectorate will be found in the Report for 1912-13, No 72 Cd. 7050-13].

in ascending the Shire, discovered Lakes Shirwa and Pamalombe, and on 16th September, 1859, reached the southern shore of Lake Nyasa. Livingstone was closely followed by a Mission under Bishop Mackenzie, sent out by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The Mission settled in the Shire Highlands, but, on account of loss of its members by sickness and otherwise, it withdrew in 1862. It was subsequently re-established in 1881 on Lake Nyasa, with headquarters on the island of Likoma, where it still remains.

In 1874 the Livingstonia Mission, named in honour of the great explorer, was founded by the Free Church of Scotland. They were joined in 1876 by the pioneers of the Church of Scotland Mission, who chose the site of the present town of Blantyre, and established themselves in the Shire Highlands, while the Free Church applied itself to the evangelization of the inhabitants of the shores of Lake Nyasa.

The Missions were followed by the African Lakes Corporation, and in 1883 Captain Foote, R.N., was appointed first British Consul for the territories north of the Zambesi, to reside at Blantyre.

A serious danger had arisen in connection with Arab slave traders who had settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa. At the time of Livingstone's first visit he found the Arabs established in a few places on what is now the Portuguese shore of the lake, and at Kota-Kota, on the west side. Arab caravans, trading with the tribes in and beyond the valley of the Luangwa, were in the habit of crossing the lake on their way to and from the sea coast. Opposition of the new settlers to the slave trade carried on by Arab coastmen and natives alike resulted in a conflict with the Arab traders under Chief Mlozi, settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa, which spread to the Yao chiefs, who were under their influence.

In the summer of 1889 Mr. Johnston (now Sir H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.) arrived at Mozambique as H.B.M. Consul, and proceeded to travel in the interior to inquire into the troubles with the Arabs.

Treaties having been concluded with the remaining Makololo chiefs and with the Yaos round Blantyre, Mr. Johnston proceeded up Lake Nyasa, leaving Mr. John Buchanan, Acting - Consul, in charge, who, after the first encounter between Major Serpa Pinto and Mlauri, a powerful Makololo chief, proclaimed on 21st September, 1889, a British Protectorate over the Shire districts.

In 1891 an Anglo-Portuguese convention ratified the work of Mr. Johnston, Mr. Sharpe (now Sir A. Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B.), and other pioneers of British Central Africa, and in the following spring a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Nyasa was proclaimed. The Protectorate of Nyasaland, under the administration of an Imperial Commissioner, was confined to the

regions adjoining the Shire and Lake Nyasa ; the remainder of the territory under British influence north of the Zambesi being placed, subject to certain conditions, under the British South Africa Company.

On 22nd February, 1893, the name of the Protectorate was changed to " The British Central Africa Protectorate," but the old name " Nyasaland Protectorate " was revived in October, 1907, by the Order in Council which amended the Constitution.

Climate.

The climate of Nyasaland in its essential features is similar to that of the rest of Eastern Africa within the tropics.

The climate is necessarily diversified in various districts, owing to variations in latitude, altitude and general configuration of the terrain, presence or absence of rivers, forests, etc., but, as a large proportion of the Protectorate lies at an altitude of 3,000 feet or more, the heat is not generally excessive. The monsoon commences to blow strongly in September, in conjunction with the sun's increase in southerly declination, and the first rains may be expected any time after mid-October. From their commencement to the end of December it is usual to experience violent thunderstorms and heavy precipitation in a few hours, followed by an interval varying from one to fifteen or twenty days of intense heat. With the return of the sun from its southern limit of declination, the thunderstorms diminish in intensity and frequency, and are replaced by steady rain—January, February and March being usually the wettest months as regards duration of rainfall as well as actual amount. After March the frequency and intensity of rainfall diminish rapidly, and from May to September the climate is comparatively cool and dry.

General Observations.

Sir Charles Calvert Bowring, K.B.E., C.M.G., arrived in the Protectorate and took the Oaths of Office as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on the 27th of March.

The East Africa Commission, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, consisting of the Honourable William Ormsby-Gore, M.P., Chairman, Major A. G. Church, D.S.O., M.C., M.P., Mr. F. C. Linfield, M.P., with Mr. J. A. Calder, of the Colonial Office, as Secretary, visited the Protectorate in September and spent some days here. Their visit gave great satisfaction to the European community, both official and non-official, and it is felt that the Protectorate will benefit greatly from the experience gained by the Commission and the interest shown by the members.

The Phelps-Stokes Education Commission, accompanied by Major Vischer, Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Native Education in the British Tropical African Dependencies, visited Nyasaland in May and spent some time here.

The European population at the end of 1924 was estimated at 1,462, the Asiatic population at 669, and the Native population at 1,210,344. As compared with the figures returned at the census of April, 1921, there is a decrease of 24 Europeans, and an increase of 106 Asiatics and 10,410 Natives, respectively. The increase in the native population in the three and a half years between the census and the end of 1924 would probably have been shown as a decrease had it not been for the considerable numbers of natives who have settled permanently in the Protectorate from Portuguese East Africa during the past few years.

There was a plentiful crop of native foodstuffs throughout the Protectorate with the exception of a portion of the Momberas district, where a somewhat acute local shortage necessitated the sending of food supplies to the affected area from other parts of the country.

The District Administration (Native) Ordinance, 1912, was repealed and replaced by a new Ordinance aiming at a system of government of the native population through or with the assistance of the natives themselves.

Continued investigations of the local areas appear to show that coal of commercial value exists in the Lower Shire district. Further investigations will be continued by the Government and, it is hoped, by private enterprise which, if the necessary transport facilities can be provided, may result in coal being made available not only for local use but for export.

A discovery of dinosaur remains in the North Nyasa district is of great scientific importance as bearing upon the question of the age of various geological formations in this part of Central Africa.

Generally speaking, the year 1924 was one of fair prosperity, and trade and agriculture at least maintained their foothold on the difficult upward slope from the depression that, in common with all the world, Nyasaland has experienced during recent years. An index of returning prosperity is shown by the increased imports of iron, steel, machinery, cotton manufactures and vehicles, which together show an increase in value of nearly £100,000 as compared with 1923.

Health.

The admissions to hospitals, both European and African, were slightly fewer in number than in 1923, though the out-patients in both cases were more.

Four cases of pneumonic plague (all fatal) were reported from Fort Johnston in March.

There were no cases of smallpox reported.

One case of sleeping sickness in a native was reported ; and one European who contracted the disease in Portuguese Territory came in for treatment.

During the year there were treated at the Government hospitals and dispensaries a total of 709 Europeans and 116,890 natives, as compared with 635 and 99,522, respectively, in 1923.

The increasing use made of the Government Native Hospital in Zomba and of the rural dispensaries, indicates the popularity of these institutions amongst the natives. A very high proportion of the native population is infected with ankylostomiasis, and large numbers of natives suffer from ulcers and sores, which, because they are not treated properly or in time, cause much suffering. There is little doubt that the death rate among young children is very high. That there is the greatest need for additional medical services is obvious, and it is greatly to be hoped that the funds with which to provide for these may before long be available.

Immigration and Emigration.

During the year, 728 Europeans and 294 Indians were admitted to the Protectorate, of whom 129 Europeans and 42 Indians were in transit. The numbers leaving were 661 Europeans and 202 Indians, including 95 Europeans and 55 Indians merely passing through the country.

The net result is 599 immigrant Europeans and 566 emigrants, showing an increase of population from this cause of 33, as compared with 73 in the previous year. The figures for Indians show 252 entering the country and 147 leaving it, a net increase of 105 as compared with 57 in 1923. It would be unwise to attach much importance to these figures, as they chiefly relate to the normal leave arrangements of Europeans and Indians employed or settled in Nyasaland. There is, however, a slow but continuous increase of Indians in the Protectorate.

No reliable figures can be given as regards native emigration, as many thousands leave annually for work in Rhodesia and elsewhere. The majority of them eventually return, usually after one season's absence. As regards immigrants, there is a stream of permanent settlers from Portuguese East Africa, which appears to be slightly on the increase, the number so settling being returned at over 10,000 in 1924. These immigrants serve a useful purpose as labourers, but steps are being taken to regulate their introduction as settlers.

Agriculture.

A fortuitous combination of favourable weather conditions and of good market prices resulted in the year 1924 being one of the most prosperous in the history of the Protectorate. Records were established for the production of tobacco and tea, which amounted, in the case of tobacco, to over 7,000,000lb. and in that of tea to over 1,000,000lb. Cotton yields were low, owing to the depredation of insect pests, but were an improvement on

the previous year, while prices were appreciably higher. The figures given below show the acreages of exportable crops grown by Europeans in 1924, as compared with 1914 and 1923 :—

European Agriculture.

<i>Crop.</i>		1914.	1923.	1924.
Coffee	.. ..	1,559	474	424
Cotton	.. ..	24,006	20,948	26,120
Fibres	.. ..	820	2,763	5,902
Rubber	.. ..	5,936	1,812	1,795
Tea	.. ..	3,338	4,235	5,093
Tobacco	.. ..	9,042	17,308	20,590

The boom in tea values on the home market resulted in increased attention to this crop in Nyasaland. Improved methods of cultivation and manufacture have been adopted, and the industry is now on a very sound footing.

No figures are available regarding the tonnage of tobacco grown by natives, but the amount was greatly in excess of the previous year and has been estimated at 500 tons. The cotton crop produced by natives was 1,369 tons of seed cotton as compared with 747 tons in 1923.

Trade.

Confidence in the recuperative power of the Protectorate was justified by the results of the year 1924, since the external trade during that period was greater than that of any previous year. Favourable climatic conditions for the production of tea, cotton, and tobacco, all of which showed largely increased yields, contributed to the general improvement.

The balance of trade was in favour of exports for the first time since 1920. The most noteworthy feature of the import trade was the value of goods imported for native consumption, which, with cotton goods alone exceeding a quarter of a million pounds sterling in value, comprised 50 per cent. of the total imports.

The following tables show the values of imports and exports, excluding specie, transit trade, and Government stores, during each of the past five years :—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
		£	£	£
1920	.. ..	507,573	670,072	1,177,645
1921	.. ..	637,567	416,404	1,053,971
1922	.. ..	522,119	442,164	964,283
1923	.. ..	462,284	425,181	887,465
1924	.. ..	548,156	583,555	1,131,711

In total quantity, 14,549,839 lb., domestic exports far exceeded that of any year in the history of the Protectorate.

Hitherto the natives of the Protectorate have been slow to engage in the production of crops for export. With the help of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation and the British Cotton Growing Association, endeavour was made to extend the native cotton industry. Especially in the Lower Shire district this endeavour was largely successful. Increased attention is also being given to cotton growing by natives in other districts, with the result that the export of native-grown cotton increased from 747 tons of seed cotton in 1923 to 1,369 tons in 1924.

In 1924 natives engaged for the first time in the production of tobacco on Crown lands, and grew about 500 tons.

The necessity for advice and assistance to natives in the production of crops for export, and adequate control of their operations in order to prevent improper use of land, neglect of essential food crops, and the production of cotton and tobacco of inferior quality, is fully recognized, and steps have been and are being taken to provide for this need. The prospect of a very large extension of native industry is most encouraging, and there is reason to anticipate a material increase in the exports of the Protectorate in the near future.

The United Kingdom supplied 57·7 per cent. of the imports, taken by value; 18·2 per cent. came from British possessions, and 24 per cent. were shipped from foreign countries. The United Kingdom took 98·5 per cent. of the exports by value and 86·3 per cent. by quantity.

The quantities of the principal products exported during each of the last three years were :—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Cotton ..	2,227,674	2,182,537	2,229,316
Tobacco ..	6,330,808	5,158,326	7,044,175
Tea ..	737,165	963,309	1,058,504
Fibre ..	1,129,476	1,673,762	1,789,038
Rubber ..	91,242	127,141	173,973
Coffee ..	95,277	92,216	47,296
Capsicums and Chillies.	14,258	25,755	35,436

The most noteworthy feature of the year's export trade was the record production of tobacco, tea, and fibre. Although there is a tendency on the part of Europeans to regard cotton growing with some disfavour, mainly owing to its susceptibility to the ravages of pests, but partly to the less healthy nature of the areas suitable for its production, the encouragement given to native cotton growers has enabled the Protectorate to maintain and even to increase the quantity of this product. During 1924, 36 per cent. of the cotton exported was grown by natives, as compared with 22 per cent. in the previous year and 15 per cent. in 1922.

Labour.

There is little of importance to report regarding labour conditions during 1924. The natives of the Central and Northern Provinces appear loth to work on European estates, and apparently rely on remittances from friends and relatives in Rhodesia or on their own savings to provide money for their taxes and modest domestic needs. Natives exhibit marked preferences in respect of paid labour, and, although they will return year after year to work during the season on certain estates, some planters experience the greatest difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of labour. In many parts of the Southern Province the chief source of labour is Portuguese East Africa, whence many thousands of natives immigrate yearly to work on the various plantations in Nyasaland, and many of these natives remain permanently either as settlers on private land or, with the permission of the authorities, on Crown land. This process of permanent and semi-permanent infiltration of alien natives has a beneficial effect on the labour supply. Indeed, without this source of supply in some districts, the labour problem would become extremely acute. But, on the other hand, the settlement of thousands of natives in the very areas where Crown land is least plentiful is creating a serious state of congestion in many places, and a position has arisen which is receiving the closest attention of the Government.

It is not improbable that the time is approaching when the natives will realise clearly that their choice in future lies between peasant proprietorship and individual or communal production of foodstuffs and economic products on the one hand, and hired labour with a consequent partial divorce from their customary village life on the other hand. The success or failure of the present revival of interest in cotton and tobacco as native crops will doubtless have a far-reaching effect on the mental attitude of the native towards the question of hired labour.

Signs are not lacking, however, that the European planting community is becoming increasingly alive to the fact that, if they are to continue to obtain an adequate supply of plantation labour, the conditions under which labourers are engaged and employed must be very carefully considered.

Crime.

The strength of the police force on 31st December, 1924, was 12 officers and 440 African ranks, and the area under its jurisdiction about 40,000 square miles. The estimated cost of the force for 1924 was £12,904.

Since the reorganisation of the police in certain districts of the Southern Province, crime has shown a tendency to decrease, and there were 1,228 fewer cases reported to the police in 1924.

The prisons of the Protectorate consist of a central prison at Zomba for long sentence prisoners, and 20 district prisons situated

at the headquarter stations of each district, for short sentence native prisoners. The strength of the prison staff on 31st December, 1924, was two European officers and 104 African warders. District prisons are under the charge of administrative officers or police officers, and where no warder staffs are provided the police perform such duties.

The estimated cost of the prisons for 1924 was £4,532.

The total number of persons committed to the prisons in 1924 was 3,872, of whom 865 were for safe custody pending trial, and 3,007 on sentence to imprisonment. The daily average number of persons in the prisons during 1924 was 681·48.

Finance.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during each of the past five financial years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1920-21	267,970	261,813
1921-22	259,117	305,495
1922-23	247,347	312,302
1923-24	281,044	282,800
1924-25	285,459*	305,341*

* Estimated.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March in the above years was :—

	£
1921	75,831
1922	29,453
1923 (excess of liabilities)	35,498
1924	7,704
1925	8,855*

* Estimated.

The public debt of the Protectorate as at 31st March, 1925, was as follows :—

	£
East African Protectorates (Railways and Roads) Loan, 4 per cent. ..	10,236
East African Protectorates (Railways and Roads) Loan, 6 per cent. ..	32,809
Shire Highlands Railway—Redemption of Subsidy Lands Loan	158,879
Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee Loan	289,298
Famine Relief Loan	19,600
Total	<u>£510,822</u>

Land.

The whole question of land tenure and settlement is under consideration, and in the meantime no change has been made in the methods of alienating land.

A successful season enabled many planters to pay off their arrears of rent, and the position in that respect was more or less satisfactory at the end of the year.

There was not much demand to lease new agricultural land during the year, and the European population is slightly smaller than it was four years ago. This is due largely to the fall in prices of tobacco since 1920 and to bad seasons.

Natural Resources.

FORESTRY.

Attention was concentrated on the formation of forest reserves, their demarcation, protection, and the examination of new tracts with a view to reservation. At the end of 1924, twenty-one reserves had been proclaimed with an approximate area of 2,634 square miles. Many of these areas are important water-sheds, and have been reserved mainly with the object of regulating, maintaining, and improving water supplies. Some, however, contain forest of a slightly better quality than the poor type general to the Protectorate.

A Bill to prevent the reckless or careless use of grass fires was under consideration at the end of the year.

VETERINARY.

With a view to the better control of rinderpest, a complete register of cattle has been prepared during the year in the North Nyasa district, that portion of the Protectorate which borders on Tanganyika Territory.

There was a total absence of East Coast fever in the Southern Province during the year. In this area the dipping of cattle is now practically universal, with the result that tick-borne diseases are non-existent, the same remark applying to skin diseases.

A few outbreaks of East Coast fever have occurred in the Central and Northern Provinces, where the disease is endemic, but the death-rate has been slight.

The great cause of anxiety has been the gradual but steady spread of trypanosomiasis. Considerable numbers of deaths have occurred and are still occurring in the Lower Shire and Chikwawa districts, and one serious aspect of the situation is the difficulty encountered in discovering the actual locality of the tsetse fly, if such should be the vector. The matter is being investigated locally, but on all hands it is felt that there are factors

in the problem not at present properly understood, and the appointment of a Commission to investigate the problem is an urgent need.

FISHERIES.

There is no organized fishing industry in Nyasaland, although considerable quantities of fish are caught in the lakes and larger rivers by waterside natives and hawked for sale, either fresh to Europeans in the vicinity or sun-dried for sale to natives, often at very considerable distances from the place where they are caught.

WATER POWER.

Water power continues to be utilised to an increasing extent for running machinery connected with agricultural operations, and some interest is shown in the question of erecting dams across various streams in order to make use of the water for irrigation purposes. The Government electric light system, the machinery in the workshops, and the printing plant in Zomba are run by water power.

MANUFACTURES.

Manufactories on the European scale do not exist in Nyasaland. Tobacco and tea factories are, however, in existence, and cotton is ginned at various centres in the country. Native industries, such as mat and basket-making, wood and ivory carving, furniture and jewellery making, and similar domestic industries, are carried on to the extent necessary to supply the limited local demand.

Banks.

The banking position remains unaltered. British sterling coin is the legal currency of the Protectorate, and there are no notes officially recognized, although a certain number of South African bank notes circulate in the country and are generally accepted as a convenience by the local stores.

The Standard Bank of South Africa and the National Bank of South Africa continue to share the banking business of the community.

Both these banks conduct savings bank business, and the Post Office and some of the missions also provide similar facilities. The Post Office Savings Bank continues to make slow headway against the innate prejudice of the native mind, and there is evidence that its popularity is increasing. In 1919 and 1920, withdrawals greatly exceeded deposits; but during and since 1921, deposits together with accrued interest have exceeded withdrawals. In 1924 the excess of deposits amounted to £1,916.

The number of new accounts opened during the year was 81, and the number closed was 56. At the end of 1924 a sum of £8,444 was held to the credit of depositors, who numbered 453 on that date.

Legislation.

Apart from the legislation mentioned under the appropriate sections of this Report, the only Ordinances worthy of special notice which were passed during 1924 were the Wild Birds' Protection Ordinance, and the Dogs Ordinance, which repealed and replaced the 1912 Ordinance.

Education.

No change was made in the educational system of the Protectorate. The Government grant of £2,000 was, as usual, divided between the various missions in the form of a grant-in-aid towards the cost of their educational activities. Government takes no direct part in the education either of European children or of the natives.

The Marist Fathers' Mission conducts a boarding and day school at Limbe for European children.

The Phelps-Stokes Education Commission, accompanied by the Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Native Education in the British Tropical African Dependencies, visited Nyasaland during the year, and upon its report and the appointment of a Director of Education the decision of Government must await as to the education policy to be adopted in the future.

Communications.

The steamer services between Beira and the United Kingdom still leave much to be desired, and passengers are frequently kept waiting at Beira for a week or more owing to the uncertainty of the sailing dates of all steamers except those of the British India Line, which maintain a regular fortnightly or monthly mail service.

It has not yet been found possible for the railway company to run a twice-weekly service, but when they are in a position to do so, it may be hoped that much of the present inconvenience and delay will be avoided.

The time taken between Beira and England is from five to six weeks by intermediate steamer, and about thirty days by the all-sea mail route.

TRANSPORT.

Except in the remote areas, carriage by native porters has been almost entirely replaced by mechanical transport, and every encouragement by means of the exemption from import duty of commercial vehicles and the provision of suitable roads, as funds

permit, is given to this means of transport. Notwithstanding this assistance the cost of local transport is high, especially from places remote from the railway. From Beira the charges are a great handicap to the development of the Protectorate's resources, but until both imports and exports increase in bulk to a very considerable extent these charges are not likely to be materially reduced, as the net railway revenues are insufficient to provide for interest and sinking fund charges on the capital expended.

POSTAL.

A new sub-post office having been opened at Namwera, there are now 28 post offices conducting business; of these 18 both issue and pay money orders, 3 pay only, and 7 transact no money order business.

The money orders issued in 1923-24 amounted to £12,901 and the amount of money orders paid amounted to £9,187. Orders issued and paid in the Protectorate amounted to £8,030. Money orders issued on the United Kingdom show a considerable increase, mainly due to the growing popularity of the C.O.D. business, otherwise the money order business shows a decrease.

Postal orders issued in 1923-24 amounted to £8,066, and the value of postal orders paid was £17,289, an increase of £788 and a decrease of £2,229 respectively.

Postal articles have increased both in the numbers posted and in those delivered, probably due to the improved mail service.

During the year a travelling post office was established on the Shire Highlands Railway, and all letter mails are treated *en route* with the exception of the Zomba and Blantyre direct services. Inward parcel mails are dealt with for Customs assessments at Zomba and Limbe, and all outward parcel mails are despatched from Limbe. The motor mail service with Northern Rhodesia has given great satisfaction and has maintained exceptionally good time in spite of an abnormally wet season.

TELEPHONES.

No extension has been made to the Government telephone system, which is still the only system of any importance in the Protectorate.

TELEGRAPHS.

The African Transcontinental Telegraph Company owns and works the main telegraph system in Nyasaland, which is directly connected with Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, with Fort Jameson and Fife in Northern Rhodesia, and with Tukumyu in Tanganyika Territory. The railway stations are linked up by the private systems of the railway companies, which work in conjunction with the trunk lines of the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company.

During the year the Company proposed for financial reasons to close down certain important stations, but in the meantime they are being kept open pending negotiations with the Government.

Public Works and Roads.

The principal public works undertaken in Zomba were :— The provision of a water supply to the Central Prison and the Native Hospital ; additional storage at Medical Store, and the provision of public latrines. At Blantyre a hospital laundry was built. In the districts, Chikwawa Boma, consisting of a two-storied resident's house, a three-roomed office, a small prison, and lines for police, warders, and station staff, was erected on a site on the high river bank, thus eliminating what was probably the most unhealthy and badly-equipped station in the country. At Cholo a house was built for the Assistant Resident, but it still requires an iron roof. Financial stringency prevented the building of more civil quarters which, however, are urgently needed, especially at Zomba and Blantyre. Much new work was carried out on the roads. Further re-metalling was done on the Zomba-Blantyre road, and the metalling of the Cholo road continued for another $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, with new culverts and other necessary work. Culverting was continued on the Blantyre-Ncheu road, and a new district road, with a low level bridge over the Lichenya River, was opened to Mitambi (Mlanje). A new road designed to open up the Mwanza Valley district for native and European settlement was surveyed and roughly constructed as far as the Shire river. On the Fort Jameson road the Lintipe bridge begun last year was completed, and a bridge over the Diampwe, consisting of ten 18-ft. brick arches, was erected. The Lilongwe bridge was strengthened to take four tons (gross live weight) ; numerous brick arch minor bridges and culverts were built, and drainage improvements carried out.

Bridges over the Lingadzi and Lombadzi rivers, on the Lilongwe-Dowa road (Great North road, first section) were begun.

The Likulezi and Mlosa roads, Mlanje, were improved, and a route from Dedza down the escarpment to the south-west arm of Lake Nyasa was surveyed to a 1 in 15 grade.

Various roads, primarily for the benefit of the cotton industry, were improved from funds made available for cotton development from the profits under the agreement with the British Cotton Growing Association.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Wei-hai-wei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	"
1252	Ashanti	1923-1924
1253	Cyprus	1924
1254	Zanzibar	"
1255	Gold Coast	1923-1924
1256	Federated Malay States	1924

MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island.. .. .	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1258.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1213.)



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ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924*.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and $72^{\circ} 50'$ W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands, and just below the tropic of Cancer. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but, as no thorough survey of the group has ever been made, this figure may be below the mark.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands or cays, and a large number of islets and rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group and offers dangers to navigation, and has been the cause of many shipwrecks in the past. These islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which was said to resemble a Turkish fez.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands, separated from each other by narrow passages or channels, in many cases only a few feet deep, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846: [Cd. 7622-37.]

HISTORICAL.

The Turks and Caicos Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. These islands remained uninhabited, probably on account of the sterility of the soil and the scanty rainfall, until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710 but soon returned and continued the salt industry with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts were made by the Spaniards and the French to obtain possession of the islands. In the year 1766 the King was pleased to appoint an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, "to reside there and by his residence on the spot to insure the right of the island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order in general amongst the inhabitants. In 1790 Colonel Alexander Murray arrived as the agent of His Majesty, and in 1799 an act was passed by the Bahama Legislature which placed the Turks and Caicos Islands under the Bahama Government, and so they remained until 1848 when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, Her Majesty was pleased to grant a separate charter to the "Turks Islands and the Islands and Cays commonly known as the Caicos Islands." Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found burdensome in the altered circumstances caused by the fall in the price of salt, and in 1873 a petition was presented to the Queen praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica and still remain one of its dependencies. Under this new arrangement the government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also President of the Legislative Board and Judge of the Supreme Court.

CONSTITUTION.

The Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner as President, two official members, and three unofficial members nominated by the Crown. The Governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local government and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes and has been constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency.

CLIMATE.

Although these islands are within the tropics the climate is not unhealthy. The severe heat in the hot months is tempered by the constant sea breezes. The temperature ranges from 60° minimum to 93° maximum. The average rainfall during the year 1924, from observations taken at nine stations throughout the islands, was 30·16 inches. The maximum precipitation was recorded at Kew, North Caicos, measuring 40·69 inches, and the minimum at Salt Cay, registering 21·58 inches. The average annual rainfall during the five years 1920-4 amounted to 24·50 inches.

GRAND TURK.

Grand Turk is situated on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It is the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Commissioner resides there. The island has a population of about 1,500, of whom about four-fifths are of African descent. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island. The town contains the public buildings, including the various public offices and the prison; several stores, a market, a public library, four churches (two Anglican, one Wesleyan, and one Baptist), and Masonic and other society lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence, Government House, is situated a few miles south of the town. There is a local public telephone system connecting the public offices, business places and private residences. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels lie at anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The elevation of the light is 108 feet above sea-level. This light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills running almost the entire length of the island on the eastern side, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation, with stunted, hardy trees scattered here and there. The principal industry in Grand Turk is the production and export of salt, for which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat packing and fish curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. 538,878 bushels of salt, valued at £10,317, were exported from Grand Turk in 1924. There are four salt crushing mills on the island. Supplies of fresh fruit, vegetables and meat (on the hoof) are imported from the island of Santo Domingo and Haiti. Cricket, football, and lawn tennis are played throughout the year.

SALT CAY.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living. 437,255 bushels of salt, valued at £6,728, were exported from this small island in the year 1924.

SOUTH CAICOS.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The quantity of salt exported from this island in 1924 amounted to 489,031 bushels, valued at £8,585. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

EAST CAICOS.

This island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

MIDDLE CAICOS.

Separated by a narrow passage from East Caicos lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

NORTH CAICOS.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

PARROT CAY, DELLIS CAY, AND OTHERS.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. A small quantity of cotton is produced at Parrot Cay.

PROVIDENCIALES OR BLUE HILLS.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

WEST CAICOS.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The venture was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

I.—General Observations.

In April of the year under review the Commissioner made a tour of inspection throughout the Caicos Islands, visiting every inhabited place.

During the year the Dependency again suffered from the effects of another drought. By careful management and economy the public water supply at Grand Turk held out until the rains in September, but the public tanks at Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay ran out and water had to be imported from one of the uninhabited Caicos Islands for supply to the people of those two places. Another public tank of 60,000 gallons capacity is now being constructed by the Government at Grand Turk which it is believed will insure against any serious shortage of water in the future.

Following the prolonged drought of several years, heavy rains fell in the Caicos Islands in October and November, causing floods which covered the plantations and destroyed the crops. Hundreds of people, who were then faced with starvation, appealed to the Government for help. To relieve the situation sums amounting to over £200 were advanced from public funds for the purchase of food only, mainly consisting of corn. No cash was given by way of relief, and in every case the cost of the food distributed was treated as a loan to be repaid later.

A severe gale, which later on developed into a hurricane and spent itself in the North Atlantic, passed over this Dependency on the 11th of November and did considerable damage in the Caicos Islands. It also drove ashore a large sailing vessel lying at anchor at Grand Turk, which became a total wreck.

For many years steamships trading between New York and the Dominican Republic had been calling regularly at Grand Turk to obtain gangs of stevedores and other labourers for service on board while the ships were in Dominican waters and calling again on the return voyage to disembark them. This arrangement provided a regular and satisfactory mail, passenger and freight service between these islands and the United States without the payment of a subsidy. A new law of the Dominican Republic governing consular fees, which came into operation in November, 1924, caused the above-mentioned arrangement to be terminated. The people of these islands were greatly alarmed as to the probable consequences. They feared not only the loss of regular steamship communication with the outside world but the suffering which would be caused by the throwing out of employment of the large number of men who had hitherto relied on such regular employment. They realized that the salt industry was unable to employ those men and that the public revenue was unable to bear the cost of a subsidy sufficient to attract a regular steamship service. They also feared the withdrawal from local circulation of the large sums of money expended here by the steamship companies and the consequent reduction of the public revenue. With the approval of the Governor-in-Chief the Commissioner then proceeded to Santo Domingo to co-operate with His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in laying the case before the Dominican Government and endeavouring to obtain some concession in favour of the labourers of this Dependency. They received from the President a promise that Congress would be asked to modify the law referred to or grant a friendly concession to the people of these islands. The matter is not yet settled, and in the meantime this Dependency has been suffering the troubles and hardships anticipated.

A record of immigration and emigration is now kept. It was mentioned in the annual reports for the previous two years that owing to poverty and unemployment many of the labouring classes had left these islands to seek employment abroad. This movement has continued and during the year 1924 the number of departures exceeded the number of arrivals by 344.

During the year a weekly mail, passenger and freight service between Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour was established with the aid of a subsidy from the Government. The service, performed by a sailing vessel, commenced in July and has been carried out regularly ever since.

The principal public work carried out during the year 1924 was the construction of a new salt shipping pier at Grand Turk. Other works at Grand Turk included the repainting of the Lighthouse; the renewal of the Prison roof; and repairs to Government House, the Court House, the Government School, the public buildings, and the public wharf. The works at Cockburn Harbour included the completion of the Public Hospital and the Government Warehouse; extensive repairs to one of the public

tanks, and the provision of a new mooring buoy, range lights, and a new derrick on the public wharf. At Salt Cay, Dean's Dock was repaired and extended, and repairs to the Residency and public tank were carried out. The school buildings in several of the settlements in the Caicos Islands were also repaired.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

In his annual report on the Turks Islands for 1924 the Government Medical Officer stated that during the earlier months of the year there was nothing unusual to report apart from the ordinary and regular cases of malaria, but that later in the year a severe type of remittant fever made its appearance, and despite every effort on his part to control the disease it continued for several months. There were some 20 cases but none ended fatally.

Tuberculosis.—There were five cases under observation ; this number being less than that of the previous year.

Alastrim.—One case of a mild type which was isolated and treated.

Syphilis.—Three cases came under treatment.

Pellagra.—About fifteen cases came under observation during the year. Those afflicted were mostly women and girls.

Children's diseases, such as measles, whooping-cough, and chicken-pox were entirely absent during the year, but a large number of young children suffered from bowel trouble which he attributed to starchy diet and lack of green vegetables and fruit. Taking everything into consideration, these islands were in a fairly healthy condition during the year.

HOSPITALS.

The undermentioned hospital accommodation was provided :—

The Manning Hospital at Grand Turk . . 8 beds

The Public Hospital at Cockburn Harbour 4 beds.

As regards the Manning Hospital, the staff consisted of the Medical Officer, Head Nurse, Cook, and Messenger.

During the year, 15 cases were admitted to the surgical ward and 10 cases to the medical ward for treatment. The isolation camp, situated in the hospital grounds, was occupied on one occasion only during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the end of the year 1924 was 5,400.

The white population, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians. During

the year 1924, 178 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 31·7 per 1,000. During the same period 123 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 21·9 per 1,000 ; 43 marriages were registered.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of the imports during the year 1924 amounted to £43,253. The value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom was £4,282 ; from British Dominions, £3,230 ; and from foreign countries, £35,741, including £31,814, the value of imports from the United States. The imports consisted mainly of general merchandise, including food, drink and clothing. The customs import duties amounted to £3,945.

The exports were valued at £31,495. Shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at £131 ; to British Dominions, £13,160 ; and to foreign countries, £18,204. The value of the exports to Canada was £11,176, and to the United States, £15,179. The bulk of the exports consisted of salt (coarse and fishery). £29,674 was the value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1924 and £1,821 the value of the re-exports.

II.—Government Finance.

The public revenue of the Dependency for the year 1924 amounted to £9,693 and the expenditure to £12,186 ; the expenditure exceeding the revenue by £2,492. This excess was partly caused by the decline in the revenue due to the falling off in trade and also by the fact that a large expenditure in 1922 on land surveys in the Caicos Islands was carried to a suspense account and was not finally brought to expenditure account until 1924. The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1924, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £9,733 as against £12,226, the surplus at the end of the previous year. The Dependency has no public debt and direct taxation is very light. The principal sources of revenue were import duties and royalty on salt ; the former providing about 40 per cent. and the latter about 20 per cent. of the total revenue.

The currency consisted of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government, but gold coins were very scarce and very seldom seen. The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £3,000 ; the notes being of the following denominations: five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound. The Government Savings Bank had 881 accounts open, with £19,747 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £14,821. A further investment has been made since. There were no private banks doing business in the Dependency.

III.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

TRADE.

In the year 1924 there was a balance of trade against the Dependency of £11,758, that is, the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by that amount. The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last three years :—

		1922.	1923.	1924.
		£	£	£
Salt	.. ..	36,621	30,271	25,630
Conchs	.. ..	2,289	1,563	1,217
Sponges	.. ..	1,690	1,436	1,647
Cotton and Cotton Seed.	Cot- ton	1,700	641	904
Sisal	.. ..	946	2,168	169
Turtle Shell	.. ..	166	486	50

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports and exports, during the last three years :—

IMPORTS.

		<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British Dominions.</i>	<i>Foreign Countries.</i>
		£	£	£
1922	..	4,656	3,020	40,001
1923	..	3,577	2,960	40,023
1924	..	4,282	3,230	35,741

EXPORTS.

1922	..	882	19,846	26,031
1923	..	750	14,843	21,862
1924	..	131	13,160	18,204

SALT.

The demand by dealers in the United States and Canada for salt, the Dependency's principal product, was not as steady as usual, with the result that there was a decline in 1924 in the

quantity exported as compared with the previous years. Two grades of salt are exported: coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the salt shipments in 1924 :—

		<i>Quantity.</i> <i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
United States	.. ..	798,950	12,855
Canada	.. ..	504,000	9,844
St. Pierre et Miquelon	.. ..	79,705	1,567
Jamaica	.. ..	50,983	744
Newfoundland	.. ..	28,486	563
Bermuda	.. ..	3,040	57
		<hr/> 1,465,164	<hr/> £25,630

1,838,188 bushels were exported in 1922 and 1,625,674 in 1923.

CONCHS.

The trade in conchs continue to decline. 1,216,000, valued at £1,217, were shipped from the Caicos Islands to Haiti in 1924, as compared with 1,672,775, valued at £1,563, in the previous year. Many of the inhabitants of those islands depend on the conch trade with Haiti for their livelihood. This trade is handicapped by the excessive port charges levied in that country.

SPONGES.

The value of the sponges exported increased from £1,436 in 1923 to £1,647 in 1924 as shown below. There was a revival in the trade in this commodity with the United States during the year under review. The value of shipments to that country increased from £366 in 1923 to £1,083 in 1924, while the value of the shipments to Bahamas fell from £1,070 in 1923 to £564 in 1924.

The following table gives the value of the shipments during the last three years :—

							£
1922	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,691
1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,436
1924	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,647

COTTON.

During the year 1924 the exports of raw cotton amounted to 11,104 lb., valued at £803, as compared with 5,724 lb., valued at £430, exported in 1923, but there was, however, a decline in the shipments of cotton-seed. 28,363 lb., valued at £101, were exported in 1924, as compared with 39,840 lb., valued at £211, shipped in the previous year.

SISAL.

In 1924 there was a slump in the local trade in sisal, which is cultivated on a small scale in the Caicos Islands. Only 15,472 lb., valued at £169, were exported, as compared with 208,180 lb., valued at £2,168, shipped in 1923.

SHELL.

There was a heavy falling off in the export of turtle shell in 1924. Only 50 lb., valued at £50, were shipped, as compared with 479 lb., valued at £486, exported in 1923.

IV.—Legislation.

Only three ordinances were passed during the year 1924. No. 1 was the usual supplementary appropriation ordinance covering the excess expenditure in 1923; No. 2 was the ordinary appropriation ordinance for 1924; and No. 3 amended the law governing the giving of security by public officers for the faithful discharge of their duties.

V.—Education.

The sum of £815 was granted to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency. There were ten Government elementary schools supported in this manner. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 777 and the average attendance was 567. The salaries of the teachers amounted to £624.

The Secondary School at Grand Turk, which is controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner, received a grant from public funds of £150. The average attendance at this school was 30.

During the year 1924 a Centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk and the first examinations were held in December with satisfactory results.

A school was established at the settlement of Conch Bar, Middle Caicos, and opened on the 1st January, satisfying a much felt want.

VI.—Meteorological.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, in latitude 21° 22' N. and longitude 71° 27' W., at a height of 11·3 feet above sea-level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	..	..	..	..	27·92 in.
Maximum temperature	..	..	..	..	88·8°
Minimum	„	..	..	..	60·5°

VII.—Shipping.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Dependency during the year 1924 was as follows :—

	<i>British</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Steamships	18	125	143
Sailing vessels ..	132	40	172
	<hr/> 150	<hr/> 165	<hr/> 315

The net tonnage of the sailing ships amounted to 28,202 and of the steamships to 220,710.

The undermentioned steamship companies of New York maintained a service between the Dependency and New York :—

The Clyde Steamship Co.
The Columbus Line Inc.
The Bull Insular Line Inc.

VIII.—Communications.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York about two or three times a month by steamers of the Clyde and Columbus lines.

Mails were despatched to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk on their way from England, and mails were also sent to, and received from, that island by sailing vessel whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Government radio-telephone service enabled messages to be transmitted between Grand Turk, Salt Cay, Cockburn Harbour and passing ships.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., between Halifax and Bermuda and Jamaica, touches at Grand Turk and connects the Dependency with other telegraphic systems of the world. The company supplies a News Bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

During the year under review a new submarine telegraph cable was laid between Barbados and Grand Turk and was declared open for business on the 1st December, 1924.

H. E. PHILLIPS.

Commissioner.

Grand Turk,

8th May 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	State of Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	"
1252	Ashanti	1923-1924
1253	Cyprus	1924
1254	Zanzibar	"
1255	Gold Coast	1923-1924
1256	Federated Malay States	1924
1257	Nyasaland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1259.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1214.)



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FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.*

General.**GEOGRAPHICAL.**

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west, and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About eighty islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole group itself is situated midway between the Tongan or Friendly Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin to volcanic upheaval and to the busy operations of the coral polyps. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group. Although Fiji appears not to be the focus of volcanic action, masses of pumice stone, drifting at intervals on the shores of the Colony, indicate the proximity of submarine disturbances.

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914. No. 848. (Cd. 7622-39.)

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet) and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet. The slopes of these altitudes are, for the most part, densely wooded, but only in a few places can virgin forests be said to exist. Fijians for ages past have used the same system of agriculture as at present, felling new areas of forest for their crops when the fertility of the old has become exhausted, and it may be due in some measure to these methods that secondary rather than virgin forests generally appear to be re-established. The forests of Fiji, although only lightly explored, yield useful timber in considerable quantity.

Of brilliant flowers there are few, but the Yasiyasi (*Engonia Rivularis*) when in flower are exceedingly gorgeous, whilst a terrestrial orchid (*Phajus*) and two or three mountain *Dendrobiums* are also noteworthy. The majority of the native flowers are, however, white, many being beautifully scented. In the Bua Province the country is park-like, and *Eugenias*, sweetly-scented *Jasmines*, and "Buas" abound.

Fiji possesses a great variety of bird life. Of indigenous birds there are about 100 known species, and, in addition, imported species number approximately fifteen. A complete ornithological survey of the Group has not yet, however, been made, although an interesting and a valuable report on the subject has been written by Dr. Casey A. Wood, M.D., LL.D., of Chicago, U.S.A., who spent some months in the Colony investigating the subject. Useful and ornamental birds are protected by law, and the shooting of birds of any kind is confined practically to the white population and to the comparatively few natives and Indians who are permitted the use of arms.

Most of the shore birds seen on the coasts of Fiji are migrants, although some of them nest on the islands. These include the Godwit (*Limosa uropygialis*), the Lesser Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus fuscus*), Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), and several other visitors. Native bird life principally finds its habitat in the forest.

Butterfly life is not extensive or brilliant in feature, the few species that exist being forms of the New Guinea type. Dragonflies abound in great numbers and in considerable variety, and are said to play an important part in keeping the number of mosquitoes within limits.

Formerly, there were several varieties of snakes, all harmless, to be found throughout the Group, but these are now confined to those islands where the mongoose has not been liberated, and on those islands also lizard life is abundant.

HISTORICAL.

Fijian history as recounted by native tradition may be said to have begun with the advent of the white race.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the group "Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden," which the inhabitants collectively termed "Viti." Neighbouring Tongans, as well as other nations, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel, the *Duff*, was nearly lost on the reef off Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save second-hand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the *Bounty*, Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. "Province" in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the Kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of

victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him, he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the goodwill of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba, in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missioners established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakabou adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived at Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakabou, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakabou induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakabou and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the Islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th of December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji "acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakabou, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not

long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakabou, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, two other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909, the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and

is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education, and is authorized to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 15 of 1923 provides for an improved Fire Brigade Service for the town of Suva. A suitable station has been erected and up-to-date plant imported, including a latest pattern Dennis turbine motor engine.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a Board of Fire Commissioners.

THE COLONY'S JUBILEE.

Historically, the important feature of the year 1924 was, of course, the celebration at Levuka, on the 10th October, 1924, of Fiji's jubilee as a Crown Colony. After fifty years of British rule, at the same place and hour the same "lali" or native drum was beaten by the old Chief who beat it at Cession, announcing to the many people present the commencement of ceremonies arranged in honour of the occasion and of the presence of the Acting Governor. His Excellency was accompanied by His Honour the Chief Justice, Members of the Executive Council, and the Commander and Officers of H.M.S. "Laburnum."

Peace was the object of the Cession by the Chiefs of their country, and the Fijian appreciates the peace that for nearly fifty years has remained unbroken "throughout the land"; prosperity also was the desire of those Europeans living here then who advocated the offer and the acceptance of the Cession, and there has been more than ordinary prosperity. The value of trade has grown from £198,000 in 1876 to £2,565,528 in 1924; an advance due mainly to the development of the sugar industry and the accretions to the Colony's population which that development has entailed. But apart from material considerations, the progress of the native race has been considerable. It is not many decades since he was a savage of the most barbarous kind. From that condition, owing in the first place to the efforts of the Missions, and in the second to the combined endeavour of the Missions and the Government, he has been raised to a comparatively high state of civilisation. To-day the Fijian is a law-abiding and a loyal citizen of the Empire.

The administrative policy of the Government in Fijian matters continues to be that founded by the late Lord Stanmore (of whom to-day the Fijians still speak with unimpaired devotion), who administered native affairs in such a way as to harmonise with native custom, adhering to those customs which were best and eliminating the worst. The system which he inaugurated has endured successfully to the great benefit and contentment of the people.

Fifty years have brought about a vast change in the constitution of the Colony's population, which at Cession consisted almost entirely of aboriginal natives and some 2,000 Europeans and other whites. The native population at the present time, while being still the largest section of the community, numbers only approximately 20,000 more than the total Indian population, and, notwithstanding repatriation, less than three times the number of Indians born in the Colony since immigration first commenced in 1879.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The year was marked also by the Colony's participation in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley and by the visit to England of three native Chiefs who, in accordance with the native custom of "sikovi" observed on auspicious occasions, paid homage and conveyed the dutiful respects of the Fijian race to their Great Chief, His Majesty the King. The gracious message which His Majesty sent to his subjects in Fiji on the 10th of October, and his reception of their Chiefs were a source of much gratification to the Fijian race and to all sections of the community.

That wide attention was drawn to this Colony at the Exhibition is shown by the great number of communications that have been received from persons seeking information regarding the Colony. In the words of Sir Bickham Escott, K.C.M.G., the Colony's representative, the Fiji Court, though perhaps the smallest at the Exhibition, was by no means the least attractive. The Colony is grateful to Sir Bickham Escott and to Sir Maynard Hedstrom, the Commissioner, for their untiring efforts to bring Fiji prominently not only to the notice of visitors to the Exhibition but generally to the notice of the world. The following extract from the report submitted by Sir Maynard Hedstrom, the Commissioner, on his return to the Colony, is of interest :—

"Your Excellency will doubtless desire an expression of my opinion as to the benefits which will accrue to the Colony as a result of its participation in the British Empire Exhibition. I think this question must be considered from the standpoint adopted by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies when he said : 'I tell you the British peoples will not measure the value of Wembley within the compass of a balance sheet.'

“ The Exhibition will show a heavy financial loss and yet the British peoples will judge it a great success. It has been a splendid gathering of the British Confederation, and it has been of very great educational value, particularly to the people of England. Millions of people have learned more about the Empire and its possibilities than they ever knew before, and many thousands of visitors from overseas have been drawn closer together and to the Mother Country by means of this Exhibition. In this great educational work Fiji has taken its full share, and it would have been a mistake and a misfortune if the Colony had refrained from participation. Some Colonies can show practical and tangible results from the Exhibition. It is said that Burmah, with its great supplies of teak, found new and greater markets. Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand each had definite objects : (a) to encourage immigration ; (b) to popularise their products ; and no doubt gained considerable success in both directions.

“ In the case of Colonies like Hongkong, Ceylon, Malta, etc., the objects were less clear and definite, but their Courts were like great bazaars, and the profits on goods sold should help to pay the cost of their representation.

“ Fiji has no authorised scheme of migration to offer the casual inquirer ; it is not definitely in search of a new market for its products, and it did not establish a bazaar for the sale of souvenirs and trinkets. I believe the main result of our representation has been to make Fiji and its possibilities better known through Great Britain and the Empire than ever before.”

VISIT OF THE SPECIAL SERVICE SQUADRON.

Fiji was fortunate in its inclusion in the itinerary of the World Cruise of the Special Service Squadron in May under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick L. Field, K.C.B., C.M.G. The Squadron remained in Suva Harbour for six days, and its visit was the source of the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to local residents, who co-operated whole-heartedly in providing a round of entertainment for officers and men. In response to a request made by the residents of Levuka, Sir Frederick Field was good enough to vary the Squadron's course after leaving Suva and to steam past Levuka close to the entrance to the Harbour, thus enabling the residents of the old capital to have a near view of the vessels under his command. The Vice-Admiral's courtesy in this matter was much appreciated.

The visit of the Special Service Squadron of the Fleet in May forms a landmark in the history of the Fijians. The Fleet was met at the entrance to the Harbour by native canoes, and a native welcome consisting of chiefly ceremonies and dances was later given to the officers and men of the Squadron. At the

invitation of the Acting Governor many of the officers visited the Island of Beqa and witnessed native dances and an exhibition of fire-walking. Many thousands of natives congregated in Suva and visited the warships which created in their minds an impression of unimaginable strength and power. The visit of the Special Service Squadron will be the subject of song and legend amongst the natives for many years to come.

THE GOVERNOR.

On the 19th January His Excellency Sir C. H. Rodwell, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave to England, and the administration of Government was assumed by the Honourable T. E. Fell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who acted as Governor throughout the year. On the 10th October Sir C. H. Rodwell relinquished the appointment.

LANDS AND SURVEYS.

Transactions in native and Crown lands in 1924 showed a general increase of about 18 per cent. above the figures for 1923. Indian settlement continued to expand in the sugar districts, and an increased demand for grazing leases of hill land on the fringes of the cane areas was noticeable. In any agricultural community, subject to increase from natural causes only, the number of applications for leases of land is an index of its prosperity, and it is apparent that the Indian inhabitants of this Colony, at any rate in the sugar areas, are enjoying a reasonable return from the fruits of their labours. The opening of the first section of the " Prince's Road " has resulted in the settling of native lands along its route, by Indians. This area lies from four to eight miles from Suva, and the crops cultivated consist chiefly of vegetables, pineapples, bananas and yaqona (Kava). A proportion of the fruit is exported to New Zealand and the balance finds a ready local market.

Nine hundred and forty-two applications for leases of native lands aggregating 20,400 acres were received, and of these 493 applications for 5,996 acres were approved and 236 applications for 8,936 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 89 per cent. of the total, the remainder being distributed equally under the two heads " Europeans " and " Others " (including Chinese, Fijians and Polynesians).

Ninety-six applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 10,798 acres. Of these fifty applications for 1,486 acres were approved and thirty-five for 6,813 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn. The number of documents relating to leases of Crown and native lands sent to the Registrar of Titles Office for registration increased from 799 in 1923 to 906 in 1924. Two hundred and sixty-one plans of surveys of native and Crown

leases were examined and passed during the year, being an increase of forty-five on the figures for 1923. The position regarding the survey of leases had for some years been unsatisfactory, and during the year certain amendments were made to the regulations governing the approval of leases with the result that, henceforth, surveys of leases will be arranged by the Government, and will not, as heretofore, be a matter of contract between the lessee and a private surveyor. New Regulations under the Surveyors' Ordinance were also brought into force providing for the better control of the private surveyors and for a higher and more modern standard of work.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The main public works undertaken during the year were as follows :—

- (a) Completion of Prince's Road, providing a circular motor route 28 miles in extent, opened to public traffic in October. This road will long be associated with the name of Mr. C. B. Sealy, Public Works Department Surveyor, who was murdered on the 1st August, 1924, near the seven-mile post whilst conveying wages to be paid to the labourers working on the road.
- (b) The ferry crossing Rewa River, between Davuilevu and Nausori, was improved by the completion of a groin about 500 feet in length, which also serves the purpose of a causeway. The effects of this work on the river bed have been extremely satisfactory, and the ferry service now proceeds without interruption.
- (c) The Colonial War Memorial Hospital was completed in November at a cost of about £54,000. This institution, which is complete with all modern facilities, should meet the central medical requirements of the Colony for many years to come.
- (d) Construction was commenced on the Indian Hospital at Lautoka, and Joint Provincial School at Nadi.
- (e) Work was commenced on the beaoning of Fiji waters.

The normal work of the Department concerning the maintenance of roads, bridges, buildings, water supplies, etc., was carried out without important incident and as far as funds permitted.

Although the services of labourers were not always easy to obtain, the supply was, as a rule, sufficient, and no change was made in the rate of wages.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The total trade of the Colony, as previously stated, amounted to £2,565,528, which exceeds by £23,000 the total trade of the previous year. This condition is due mainly to additional imports (£77,534), which were counterbalanced, however, by a falling off

of exports (£53,305). Exports of sugar were less in value to the extent of £97,577, although the quantity exceeded slightly that exported in 1923. On the other hand the exports of copra, though less in quantity owing to abnormal rainfall, exceeded in value the exports of the previous year by a sum in excess of £41,000. Bananas exported were valued at £21,000 more than in 1923, and in other domestic exports, excepting molasses, satisfactory improvement was shown. Of these an increase in the value of trocas shell from £12,430 to £21,565 showed the greatest comparative rise.

Figures show that there has been a slight decrease in trade with the United Kingdom, the volume of trade being less in 1924 than during either of the two previous years by approximately 2 per cent. These figures cannot, however, be regarded as accurate, for the reason that cargoes of copra intended originally for sale at European ports may not necessarily be so disposed of, but may, subsequent to shipment, be sold in the English market. Imports, however, from the United Kingdom are satisfactorily maintained owing in part to direct steamship communication by which goods may be imported from the United Kingdom at rates of freight which do not exceed the rates charged in respect of goods carried between England and the Commonwealth of Australia.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIES.

The main agricultural industries of the Colony have for long been the production of sugar, copra, and bananas. Of recent years the first has been hampered by difficulties in obtaining a sufficient labour supply, and by a great increase in the world's production. The second has suffered from a restricted market and a considerable fall in price, and the third both from the existence of plant disease and a protective Customs tariff in Australia. In these circumstances the development of new industries has appeared to be essential to the welfare of the Colony, and some success has attended the efforts made by Government towards that end.

RICE.

The new rice industry is becoming well established. In addition to the Government rice mill a small milling plant has been erected by a commercial firm at Suva.

The Government rice mill was in continuous operation from the beginning of the year until the end of June, when supplies of local paddy were exhausted. To meet the demand for rice for the balance of the year the Government imported 565 tons from Australia. During the year the mill disposed of 1,211 tons of rice, of which 900 tons were of local production, and 311 tons imported, the total value being £23,630. In addition paddy and by-products to the value of £468 were disposed of. The quantity of rice disposed of represents approximately 1,860 tons of paddy.

Accounts for the complete year's trading of the mill are not yet available, but the books disclose that at the end of June the net profit on six months' trading was £3,000. Owing to the shortage of paddy a loss of £1,000 is anticipated during the second half of the year.

In accordance with an undertaking to share profits with growers, who are almost entirely East Indians, a bonus of £1 per ton on the 1923 paddy crop was paid during the year, £1,160 being distributed.

The quantities of rice imported during the last three years were :—

1922	...	707 tons	
1923	...	205 tons	
1924	...	658 tons, including 565 tons imported by the Government owing to crop shortage.	

Sales of local rice for these years were :—

1922	...	157 tons	...	...	value £3,800
1923	...	810 tons	...	...	value £15,200
1924	...	900 tons	...	...	value £17,380

Merchants and planters prefer locally-grown rice, and there is no doubt that had paddy stocks been available the whole of the quantity disposed of would have been of local production. This increasing demand for Fiji-grown rice indicates satisfaction with both quality and price. The export trade which was being established with neighbouring islands had to be abandoned owing to shortage of paddy, but no difficulty is anticipated in renewing the connections made when supplies permit of an export trade again being considered.

In addition to rice produced in mills, and to imports, the industry has established a considerable trade in rice between the Indian growers and their fellow countrymen, and store-keepers. Practically every grower retains part of his paddy crop, which is hand-milled and used for his own needs or disposed of to others. It is impossible to give a true estimate of the quantity thus disposed of, but it must be considerable.

Owing to drought during the planting season, a most unusual occurrence, the paddy crop was a very small one, only 600 tons being available for purchase by the mill. This will be milled early in 1925. Prospects for the 1925 crop are good and the quantity produced should be large.

The industry, which is capable of further development, is of considerable importance to this Colony with its large East Indian population. As a step towards further development the Government has established a small experimental area where imported heavy-bearing varieties of paddy will be tested and from which pure seed of proved quality and suitability will be distributed.

COTTON.

The cultivation of cotton was, at one time, one of the chief if not the principal industry of the Colony. The maximum export was in 1879 when 292 tons were exported. Owing to a fall in price, however, exports declined until 1900, when the cultivation of cotton ceased.

In 1922 the Government introduced seed of the "Sea Island" variety for distribution to intending growers, and during the following year approximately 101 bales containing $14\frac{3}{4}$ tons of lint were shipped to the United Kingdom for disposal, realising an average price of 2s. per lb.

The quantity exported in respect of the 1924 season was 180 bales containing $27\frac{1}{4}$ tons, an increase of 85 per cent. over export for the previous season.

Reports received from the British Cotton Growing Association and the purchasers speak highly of the quality of the cotton, and it is anticipated that, with the additional knowledge gained by the growers, the quality will be maintained or improved upon. It is interesting to record that of the 1923 crop, 10.5 per cent. was graded as first quality, while for the 1924 crop the percentage of first quality was 25.7.

The cultivation of cotton is almost entirely in the hands of East Indians who tend small areas. The seed cotton is collected by the Government, conveyed to the Government ginnery, ginned and baled, and is exported to the United Kingdom for sale. The Government makes advances on seed cotton supplied and meets all costs of ginning and marketing. When the proceeds are available, the advances made and cost of ginning and marketing are deducted therefrom, and any balance remaining is distributed amongst growers.

For the 1923 crop advances of 2d. and 1d. per lb. were made, and the final payments were 3d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for 1st and 2nd qualities respectively. During 1924 the advances were increased to 4d., 3d., 2d., and 1d. per lb. according to quality, and these rates have been guaranteed for the 1925 season as well.

Colonel G. Evans, Director of Cotton Culture, Queensland, visited the Colony at the request of the Government in August, and inspected most of the cotton areas, and his recommendations for the development of the industry are now receiving consideration.

PINEAPPLES.

As a result of the visit to Canada of the Colonial Treasurer during the early months of the year, it is the intention to embark on an experiment, in conjunction with the Dominion Canners, Limited, of Canada, in the growing and canning of pineapples. During the year a number of cases of pines were sent to Canada and were canned and returned to the Colony. The result of this

minor experiment was such as to lead to the belief that Fiji pineapples should compare favourably with those of other countries which now supply the world's market.

Some thousands of cases of pineapples are exported annually to New Zealand. These, however, are grown in small plots, with little cultivation, by Indian settlers in the vicinity of Suva.

The varieties found in Fiji are the Ripley Queen and the smooth-leaved Cayenne. The former is a fine yellow-fleshed sweet pine, with a delightful flavour, which averages about 4 lb. in weight. The Cayenne is a larger pine now extensively used for canning purposes in Hawaii. This latter variety is being used in the experimental plots which are intended to supply the proposed cannery. The successful development of the scheme for the commercial cultivation of pineapples and the establishment of canning factories in Fiji will provide a new and an important industry in the Colony.

DAIRYING.

The dairying industry, having expanded beyond the experimental stage, continues to develop, and it may be said that the production of butter for local consumption practically equals the average quantity imported prior to the establishment of the factories. Imports of butter during 1924, which amounted to 24'02 tons valued at £4,615, were necessitated by exceptionally rainy weather extending over a considerable period. Owing to these rains, work on farms at the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Dairy Scheme at Tailevu was greatly hampered, and for some time pasturages were seriously affected. During the year a Committee of Legislative Council was appointed to enquire into the condition of affairs at the Tailevu Dairy Settlement, but as yet, owing to various circumstances, no report has been received. Notwithstanding, however, these adverse circumstances, the butter fat purchased by the factory from soldier settlers was more than 7 per cent. in excess of the amount so purchased during 1923, and the output of butter was increased by 29 per cent. The mill's profit on the working account for the year was £337 15s. 2d.

In August last another butter factory was opened at Rewa at a site 14 miles from Suva, which is easily accessible by motor vehicle or vessel and lies in the centre of fine pastoral lands. This factory, which was erected from funds advanced by the Government on loan, is conducted on a co-operative basis. Its output to the end of the year amounted to ten tons of butter, and the estimated output for 1925 is 28 tons.

At Navua, also, a proprietary company has commenced dairying and has acquired a large area of pastoral land already well cleared and roaded.

SAWMILLING AT NADARIVATU.

The establishment during 1924 of a new sawmilling company at Nadarivatu on the highlands in the interior of Vitilevu was, in view of the cost of imported timbers (£46,620), an important event, and the operations of the Company will be watched with interest. Apart from the possibility of developing an export trade in timber the possibilities of local trade alone should be an encouragement to this Company. An immediate effect of the utilisation of these highlands in connection with sawmilling operations should be an improvement of the means of access to the lands within the Company's sphere of activity, and it is possible that its successful operation may result indirectly in the permanent settlement of Europeans on the interior plateau of Vitilevu.

MINING OPERATIONS.

Prospecting operations have been carried on spasmodically during the past half-century, but no deposits of any metal have as yet been found to occur in payable quantities. Gold, silver and copper are the principal metals sought. Four prospecting licences and 22 miner's rights were issued during the year. No systematic geological or mineralogical survey of the Colony has been made, but the somewhat cursory examinations of the main islands made at different times by visiting scientists have fostered the hope that payable gold may yet be found. Sufficient has been done to demonstrate that there is much of geological interest to be found in the central districts of Vitilevu where the more ancient plutonic and sedimentary rocks are exposed.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Colony during 1924 was satisfactory. There were very few cases of dysentery and, apart from a localised epidemic at Nadi, very little typhoid fever. In the later months of the year influenza was prevalent throughout the Colony. It was of a mild type.

Infantile mortality, which is satisfactorily low among other races in the Colony, is still too high among Fijians.

The campaign against ankylostomiasis was continued during the year, and nine-tenths of the population have now received treatment. Marked improvement in general health has resulted. Examination shows that after the second treatment the number cured is 73 per cent. and that the infection remaining is slight.

The Colonial War Memorial Hospital of 113 beds at Suva was completed during the year and has proved a great success.

The Lautoka Hospital of 46 beds for East Indians, serving a population of 35,000, was started during the year and will be completed in 1925.

Over 5,000 Fijians received salvarsan treatment for yaws.

Fourteen lepers were discharged from Makogai Asylum as all signs of active disease had been absent in each case for over two years.

By the appointment of three more Indian Sanitary Inspectors provision has been completed for some sanitary supervision of the whole population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The deaths during the year 1924 and the percentage of the respective class of population were as follows :—

Europeans, 42, being 1·47 per cent.

Fijians, 1,989, being 2·40 per cent.

Indians, 325, being ·59 per cent.

Others (excluding Rotumans), 42, being ·65 per cent.

The births were as follows :—

Europeans, 136, being 3·39 per cent.

Fijians, 3,015, being 3·5 per cent.

Indians, 2,280, being 3·48 per cent.

Others (excluding Rotumans), 139, being 2·16 per cent.

Nine hundred and seventy-nine marriages were registered, being at the rate of 0·58 of the population.

CRIME.

The total number of offences dealt with by the Courts was 1,947, as compared with 2,220 for the previous year. Of the more serious crimes, two persons were convicted of murder, six of wounding, ten of sexual offences, and ten of burglary and housebreaking.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

In the remote districts where little commercial development has taken place there is but slight modification in the old communal methods of native society. In the more commercially progressive areas a slow but definite change towards individualism is evident. Younger natives who have received a certain amount of education have constantly before them the example of a European social system, which leads some to secure exemption from communal obligations and support themselves on their own land without assistance from the community. Many leave their villages for varying periods to become wage-earners in industrial centres or on plantations. On their return to their villages many of these build iron-roofed houses, which, being more permanent than the native thatched house, give the owner more leisure to devote to individual pursuits. In some districts the old native standards are slowly being replaced by a money standard which, whatever its drawbacks, at least tends to fit the native to hold his own in competition with the East Indian and Chinese residents in the Colony. That he is willing to do so is demonstrated by the fact that a certain number of

natives have engaged in the retail store trade, which until recently has remained exclusively in the hands of Europeans, Chinese and East Indians. Many are now engaged in the sugar mills and a considerable number earn their living as clerks, sailors, carpenters, boat builders, and domestic servants. The vast majority, however, remain agriculturists living in native villages and cultivating their tribal lands.

The chief agricultural products grown by natives are coconuts, bananas, yaqona, pineapples, and native foodstuffs, which consist chiefly of yams, dalo, breadfruit, tapioca, and kumalas, and are used mainly for home consumption. Practically all the bananas exported from the Colony are native grown. Unfortunately, the supply exceeds the demand and a fair proportion of native-grown fruit is unsaleable; unless a new or an improved market can be found the cultivation of bananas by natives will decrease. Coconuts are used to a small extent to make coconut oil, but chiefly for the manufacture of copra. All native copra is sun-dried. Little care is taken in its manufacture, and in consequence its quality often leaves much to be desired. It is usually made in small quantities as occasion demands and sold to the local storekeeper. Although the total production is considerable, the individual plantations are too small to warrant the construction of drying kilns. So long as there is a ready market for this kind of native-made copra there is little hope of much improvement in its quality. The growing of sugar-cane is necessarily restricted to areas within reach of the mills, but the proportion of native-grown cane is increasing. In this industry the natives use more modern methods of cultivation; some of them breeding their own horses and bullocks for that purpose.

The natives engage in fishing operations at irregular intervals and most of the tortoise shell, trocas shell, and bêche-de-mer is obtained by native fishermen. Bêche-de-mer and trocas shell are obtained from the outer coral reefs which are often some miles from the shore. Owing, perhaps, to the high cost of boats and the very small production of native canoes, the industry has not assumed large proportions.

The general health of the natives during the past year was satisfactory. No serious epidemic occurred and the number of cases of dysentery was almost negligible. Progress was maintained in the eradication of tertiary yaws and kindred diseases. The hookworm campaign conducted under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation was continued, chiefly by locally-trained native medical practitioners, who treated over 20,000 patients. There is no doubt that its effect is a general improvement in the physical welfare of the natives. The native medical practitioners, who exercise constant supervision over the health of the native in the country districts and some of whom are now in charge of provincial hospitals, treated over 21,000 cases of major and minor ailments during the year. The vaccination of native children

was continued, over 1,400 being inoculated during the year. Many of the more serious cases were treated in the new Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, which, with its modern equipment and expert staff, is keenly appreciated by the natives.

Considerable progress was made in the improvement of native water supplies, especially in that covering the Rewa Delta, which, by means of over 56 miles of pipe line, now gives an adequate quantity of pure water to 66 villages. The effect of this work is noticed in the complete absence during the year of typhoid fever in this low-lying and swampy but populous area. A pipe supply was also carried to several towns at the mouth of the Sigatoka river, which, owing to the nature of the surrounding country, had previously relied on an uncertain rainfall.

Progress was maintained in improving educational facilities for the natives. A new provincial school was opened at Nadi and the construction of a new joint provincial boarding school for five provinces was well advanced. Manual instruction departments were added to three provincial schools, and selected pupils now receive instruction in carpentry and kindred subjects. Government grants to primary schools under the control of the various missions were increased and five more native schools were admitted to grants in aid. Two boys were selected by competitive examination from Nasinu School for a three years' course of training at Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand, under the system of grants from public funds for that purpose. Two boys completed their training at Wanganui with considerable success and returned to the Colony to take up positions as teachers at Nasinu and Lau Provincial Schools. Much good work was done by the natives themselves in improving their district schools, and there is evidence of a keen interest being taken by the natives in the education of their children. A practical agricultural training establishment for natives is now being conducted by the Methodist Mission.

Much enthusiasm is shown by the natives in all forms of sport. At the invitation of the people of the Kingdom of Tonga, a native Rugby football team visited and played a series of matches against the Tongan team. They were most hospitably received and entertained and the most cordial relations were established and maintained throughout their stay. On their way to Tonga the members of the Fijian team were entertained by the people of Samoa and played a match against a representative team of Samoans. A football cup provided by the generosity of a commercial firm was competed for at Levuka by teams from various Provinces and was won by the Province of Naitasiri. The cup will be competed for annually and will be the means of fostering a sporting spirit among the natives from all parts of the Group.

A team of New Zealand cricketers visited the Colony and played a match against a native team from Bau. They were

afterwards invited by the Chiefs to visit Bau, where they were entertained and a return match was played.

A considerable number of native boats competed in the annual regatta held at Levuka. A cup presented by the Acting Governor for the winning native-owned cutter was won by the "Totoya" boat, the owners of which retain the cup for one year. The annual competition for this cup will provide a stimulus to the natives in the proper care of their boats and in the art of seamanship in which they are naturally proficient.

At the annual native gymkhana held in the Province of Ra, keen competition took place for a cup presented by the Acting Governor for the best-kept horse.

The enthusiasm shown by natives for all kinds of sport offers a very healthy field for intercourse and friendly rivalry.

The celebration of the Colony's Jubilee of 50 years of British rule, held at Levuka, was attended by large numbers of natives from all parts of the Group. A large tabua (whale's tooth) presented on that occasion has been graciously accepted by His Majesty as a token of the loyalty and affection of his Fijian subjects.

Visits were paid by the Acting Governor to Lau, Taveuni, Nadi, Kadavu, and the Yasawa Group. In each district the Acting Governor received a loyal and enthusiastic welcome from the natives. The people of the Yasawa Group, which had never previously been visited by a Governor, were greatly delighted and keenly enjoyed visiting the Governor's yacht, the modern fittings of which filled them with amazement. The Acting Governor also visited the Leper Asylum at Makogai on Christmas Day and made presents to the inmates, who were deeply grateful to His Excellency.

Ratu Joni Mataitini was appointed during the year to succeed Ratu Pope Seniloli as a member of the Legislative Council.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under Ordinances No. 3 of 1912 and No. 8 of 1919, made reasonable progress with its work during the year 1924, but was somewhat handicapped by the absence of the chief native member of the Commission for the greater part of the year at the British Empire Exhibition, where he acted as Assistant Commissioner at the Fiji Pavilion. The Chairman of the Commission had also to devote a considerable portion of time assisting in editing the Handbook which was published in July to celebrate the Colony's Jubilee.

The native-owned lands of Fiji are held under statute by native Fijians according to their ancient native customs as evidenced by usage and tradition. The Native Lands Commission is instituted for investigating and ascertaining the respec-

tive ownership of all native lands in the Colony, and for their survey and registration. The Commission as at present constituted consists of a European officer, who is Chairman, three native chiefs of high birth and education, and a staff of specially trained native clerks.

The native Fijians are, speaking generally, divided into large tribal divisions, described as yavusa, which are respectively bound together by the tradition of common descent and known to the neighbouring tribes under a generic name. These tribes are each divided into landowning units of population, known as mataqali, which are further subdivided into smaller family divisions or tokatoka. Generally, the mataqali is the proprietary unit and the boundaries of their respective lands are as a rule well known to each other.

For the purpose of their enquiries the members of the Commission are vested with the powers of a Stipendiary Magistrate to summon and examine on oath native witnesses who they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being enquired into, or any person likely to be interested in the title of the land. They are also required, when investigating the ownership of any land, to ascertain and record the name of any person who holds any customary title or office in respect of the land. All evidence is taken by the Commission in the Fijian language. Any native feeling aggrieved at any decision of the Commission has the right to appeal to the Governor in Council, provided that notice of intention to appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the finding of the Commission. If no notice of appeal is lodged the record of the Commission becomes conclusive and binding.

When ownership has been investigated and recorded by the Native Lands Commission the boundaries of the lands are surveyed by surveyors employed by the Government for this purpose. On the completion of the survey the boundary description and the names of the respective owners are recorded in the registers and deposited, together with copies of the plans, with the Registrar of Titles, who is charged by law with the duty of preserving the Registers with the same care as freehold titles. Copies of the Registers, in the Fijian language, as far as they affect each proprietary unit, are given to each for public use.

The cost of the survey is borne by the respective owners; it is computed in accordance with the scale of charges prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor in Council. If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any landowning unit is unable to pay for the survey of its lands, he is empowered by law to make such an order as seems to him fit and just under the circumstances.

The provinces in which the investigations of the Commission have been completed are Nadroga, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Lomaiviti,

Tailevu South, Naitasiri, and Rewa East. Portions of Macuata and Cakaudrove have also been investigated. In the province of Bua, Serua, and Tailevu North the tribal frontier boundaries have been laid down, and in the cases of Bua and Serua surveyed, ready for subdivision into mataqali holding.

During the year the Native Lands Commission surveyors surveyed 37,700 acres of mataqali holdings in the provinces of Macuata, Naitasiri, Lomaiviti, and Rewa. The work in the last-named province was difficult and survey operations had to be suspended from time to time on account of the abnormal rainfall.

The following shows the total acreage surveyed in the Colony up to the end of 1924 :—

Mataqali	908,686
Tribal frontier boundaries to be further subdivided into mataqali holding ..	536,404
	<hr/>
Total	1,445,090
	<hr/>

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The Indian population of the Colony now amounts to 65,000. That population is, for the most part, resident in Suva and the sugar centres of the Colony. It is in the main an agricultural population, though the numbers of Indians who are engaged in commercial pursuits tend to increase annually.

The number of independent Indian cane growers has increased. During the year approximately 2,500 Indian farmers sent cane to the sugar mills. These farmers produced nearly 220,000 tons of cane, of a value of £180,000.

The cane cultivation of the Colony tends to pass more and more into the hands of the Indian cultivator, and the price paid for this commodity ensures a sound economic return for the producer. The guaranteeing of prices by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company for an extended period has given an impetus to cane production.

Rice cultivation is almost totally carried on by the Indian population. The Government rice mill purchased during the year from Indian cultivators 1,159 tons of paddy at a price of £6 10s. to £7 10s. per ton. It was also found possible during the year to distribute among growers from mill profits a bonus of £1 per ton of paddy supplied.

Cotton cultivation is also almost entirely in the hands of the Indian cultivator. During the year, 180 bales of cotton, containing 61,199 lb., were, as already stated, exported to the United Kingdom. This represents an increase of 85 per cent. over the previous year's operations of the industry. Advances on the crop to the amount of £2,694 were made to growers, and on the receipt of account sales it is anticipated that a further large sum will be available.

During the year £1,604 was also paid to growers in respect of the 1923 crop.

The Indians shared in the gradual improvement in the Colony's position, and the return of economic prosperity had its natural counterpart in an increased contentment of the people.

The visit of the Special Service Squadron was highly appreciated by the Indian population. A loyal address was presented to Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick L. Field, K.C.B., C.M.G., by representative Indians, and the opportunity of visiting the Fleet was gratefully accepted by the Indian community.

There has been considerable evidence during the year under review of a healthy increase in the civic sense of the community. An Indian Reform League has been instituted whose main aims are social. Under the auspices of the League, sports clubs are being founded and the Suva Municipal Council have allotted an area of Albert Park to the League's Cricket club.

The building by Government of the Indian Hospital at Lautoka marks a further advance in the general improvement of Indian conditions.

The Missions are devoting more and more attention to schemes of social amelioration, with the consequent reaction on the general life of the community. The demand for increased educational facilities is insistent and the general desire for improvement is apparent.

The s.s. "Sutlej," which was chartered to convey Indian repatriates, arrived in the Colony in December, bringing 125 passengers and 370 tons of general cargo from India. The vessel left Fiji on the 20th December for Calcutta with 1,022 souls on board. The repatriates took away from the Colony remittances to the amount of £20,221, and they carried with them jewellery of the declared value of £2,607.

The birth-rate has increased to 3.48 per cent., while the death-rate decreased to 0.59 per cent. Compared with the statistics of the other sections of the community, these figures are remarkable and are indicative of the general health of the Indian community.

Education.

The progress of education in Fiji has been closely associated with the Colony's administrative history, but prior to the date of Cession the two Missions had already made considerable progress. The Methodist Mission started in 1835 and the Catholic Mission in 1844, and the first necessity was to reduce the spoken dialects to a common written form. Hazlewood's dictionary was written in 1850, and in 1853 the New Testament was published in Fijian. Mission schools for Fijians were opened up in every

district as soon as teachers were available. It is interesting to note that as far back as 1880 an Ordinance was passed for industrial schools for natives, and that under this Ordinance successful schools were conducted at Yanawai and Naikorokoro.

In 1890 the number of Europeans in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools for Europeans at Levuka and Suva. These schools were under the management of local School Boards. About this time, also, the Catholic Mission began schools in Suva for their European adherents.

The year 1916 worked a complete change in education. In that year the School Boards were abolished and the Board of Education was created. An Education Department was formed and Ordinances were passed to allow grants to be paid to primary and vernacular schools, and a registration Ordinance made compulsory the registration of all schools and teachers.

For the Fijian natives, Government schools at Nasinu and in several provinces have been opened so that boys from the Mission village schools may enter these Government schools in order to proceed through the elementary school grades and qualify for native official appointments or become native assistants in one or other of the numerous trades open to them. Several natives have been granted further education abroad with excellent results. At the present time it is felt that, while reasonably satisfactory facilities exist for primary education for Fijians, insufficient attention has perhaps been given to vocational education for Fijian youths after leaving the primary grades, and more attention will be given in the near future to industrial and agricultural instruction for senior pupils.

European education in the Colony has made considerable progress during the last few years. In order to ensure complete staffs for the three Government schools for European children, a scheme of co-operation with the Education Department of New Zealand has been made. By this means the teachers, who are all trained and certificated under one system, continue to use the New Zealand courses of instruction with suitable modifications for local candidates in Fiji. In addition, these teachers are visited and inspected annually by a New Zealand Inspector of Schools. Correspondence classes for children in country districts were commenced in 1924, and have already given good results, and, in brief, it may be stated that in proportion to the total number of European children of school age in the Colony (611 in 1921), the educational facilities both for town and country children are reasonably extensive, and the boarding fees are extremely low.

The complexity of the education problem in Fiji is increased by the numerous races now domiciled in the Islands. Fifty years ago, when the Government and the Missions were dealing with problems of Fijian or European education, there were no

East Indians in the Colony. At present there are about 65,000 Indians resident in Fiji, and considerable attention has been given to their education.

In 1924 the expenditure on education was £27,103, as compared with £25,322 in 1923, £28,956 in 1922, £26,151 in 1921, £19,990 in 1920, and £14,185 in 1919.

The two schools established in 1917 in Suva had a roll of 206 in December, 1924 (Boys' Grammar School, 85; Girls' Grammar School, with mixed kindergarten, 121). There were 49 children from the country boarded in the Grammar Schools and Levuka Public School.

On the 31st December, 1924, there were 27 schools receiving grants-in-aid under the Primary Schools Regulations, and 25 under the Vernacular Schools Regulations. Of the latter, 19 are for Fijians and 6 for Indians.

It has not yet been possible to establish any Government-assisted training colleges, but the Davuilevu Institute of the Methodist Mission qualified for the pass grant under the supplementary regulations in connection with training schools in respect of eleven students who passed the teachers' qualifying examination. Two of the four Fijian students at Wanganui Technical College returned at the end of 1924, and two others will be sent early in 1925.

There were 20 passes out of the 43 candidates for the Cambridge Local Examinations in 1921, 17 passes out of 36 candidates in 1922, 34 passes out of 59 candidates in December, 1923, and 22 passes out of 31 candidates in 1924.

An Ordinance to make compulsory the registration of schools and teachers in the Colony was passed in 1918. Six hundred and six schools and 1,156 teachers have been registered up to the 31st December, 1924.

The native provinces have subscribed largely towards the cost of establishing four joint provincial schools for Fijian boys. It is intended that each school will board 60 to 70 pupils. Difficulties of obtaining suitable sites and building materials and of staffing have delayed the scheme. One of the four schools was opened in September, 1921, the second was built in 1922 and opened in January, 1923, and a third was opened in October, 1923.

There are now altogether 62 Government and assisted schools, 22 being for Indians, 31 for Fijians, 1 receiving both Indians and Fijians, and 8 for Europeans, other races and half-castes. They have 4,786 pupils, of whom 1,677 are Indians, 2,666 are Fijians, and 473 are Europeans, other races and half-castes. The staff consists of 59 European, 72 Fijian, and 45 Indian teachers. There are village schools in the great majority of native villages. These are supervised by native teachers, and instruction is given in the vernacular.

Finance.

The revenue for the year amounted to £484,834, or £4,852 more than the revenue for 1923.

Additional taxation in the form of a Residential Tax was imposed during the year and produced approximately £21,900.

The export duty on copra which was abolished during 1923 was reimposed from the beginning of 1924, but revenue from this source is earmarked for a specific service: the conducting of an intensive campaign against a plant disease which threatened to destroy the copra industry in the Colony.

The expenditure for the year was £451,070, or £21,404 more than the expenditure for 1923.

A comparison between the two years, 1923 and 1924, is as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>
	£	£	£
1923 ..	479,982	429,666	50,316
1924 ..	484,834	451,070	33,764

The Loan Debt of the Colony may be stated as follows :—

	£	
Public Works Loan	150,000	} Short-term loans, advances and overdrafts for public works, etc., pending the raising of a long-term loan.
Returned Soldiers and Sailors Advances Loan. .	11,200	
Advances by Imperial Treasury and Crown Agents.	553,185	
Local Overdrafts	968	
	<hr/> £715,353 <hr/>	

The Legislature approved of the raising by means of a loan of an additional £100,000 for public works.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

Liabilities :—	£
Notes in circulation	318,397
Assets :—	
Gold Reserve (sovereigns)	72,896
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1924).	290,049
Depreciation Fund Investments ..	14,577
	<hr/> £377,522 <hr/>
Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1924	<hr/> £59,125 <hr/>

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1924 produced a net surplus of £10,269, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities and Discount on Remittances.		14,649
Expenses	1,850	
Statutory Provision for De- preciation Fund. ..	2,530	4,380
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus		£10,269
		<hr/>

Banks and Banking Facilities.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £6,000,000, while that of the latter is £5,029,988. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £461,656, and by the Bank of New Zealand £285,007.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 2,604 to 3,238, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £64,216 to £73,292. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £9,479 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1923.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1924, was £90,711, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1924).	93,266	
Cash awaiting investment ..	2,950	
	<hr/>	96,216
		<hr/>
Surplus		£5,505
		<hr/>

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1924 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment ..		4,189
Interest credited to Depositors	2,716	
Expenses	167	
	<hr/>	2,883
		<hr/>
Surplus		£1,306
		<hr/>

The rate of interest paid to depositors is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. up to £500, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total imports and exports of the past two years, excluding transshipment goods, are shown in the following table :—

Year.		Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
		£	£	£
1923	..	989,060	1,553,239	2,542,299
1924	..	1,066,594	1,498,934	2,565,528

There is a preferential tariff in favour of the products and manufactures of the British Empire.

With a few exceptions, foreign goods subject to *ad valorem* rates pay $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher rate of duty than British goods of the same description and those liable to specific rates of duty 100 per cent. higher.

The balance of trade of the Colony still remains satisfactory.

Of the total trade of the Colony during 1924, 63·31 per cent. was with British Possessions, chiefly Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, and 11·32 per cent. with the United Kingdom. The balance of the total trade, i.e. 25·37 per cent., was chiefly with Europe and the United States of America. The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom fell from 13·30 per cent. in 1923 to 11·32 per cent. in 1924. That with British Possessions fell from 65·60 per cent. in 1923 to 63·31 per cent. in 1924, and that with foreign countries increased from 21·00 per cent. in 1923 to 25·37 per cent. in 1924. The increase of trade with foreign countries is accounted for by the fact that approximately 95 per cent. of the copra exported from the Colony went direct to foreign countries, principally Europe.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra and bananas, the quantities and values of these products exported during each of the last two years being as follows :—

Year.		Sugar.		Copra.		Bananas.	
		Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bunches.	Value.
			£		£		£
1924	...	44,472	768,110	23,137	484,496	467,845	115,246
1923	...	44,108	866,287	24,161	443,445	406,607	94,325

Other principal domestic exports were as follows :—

Article.		1924.		1923.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£
Coconuts ...	No.	311,442	1,613	270,230	1,119
Bêche-de-mer ...	Cwt.	459	1,896	428	1,844
Trocas Shell ...	Tons	584	21,565	439	12,430
Rubber ...	Cwt.	1,429	7,416	801	5,128
Molasses ...	Tons	4,783	4,783	8,392	8,392

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar exported during 1924 was 44,472 tons, valued at £768,110, an increase of 364 tons exported as compared with the previous year. The Penang Sugar Company has again commenced planting operations, and, with a greater area under sugar-cane in the districts in which the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, operates, the quantity exported should show a marked increase in the near future.

Bananas.

The export of bananas during the year amounted to 467,845 bunches, valued at £115,246, as compared with 406,607 bunches exported in 1923, an increase of 61,238 bunches. The export of bananas has shown a gradual increase over the last three years, but a substantial increase cannot be expected unless additional markets are found. New Zealand is now practically the only country to which this fruit is exported, and although small shipments have been made to Australia it is feared that the heavy duty imposed in that country will prevent the resumption of trade to any extent.

Coconut Industry.

The quantity of copra exported during the year was 23,137 tons, a decrease of 1,024 tons exported as compared with the previous year. The destructive coconut leaf moth, *Levuana iridescens*, has not spread beyond the island of Ovalau, and the principal coconut areas are free of infection. The Government is taking energetic steps to combat this pest and it is anticipated that efficient natural enemies will shortly be obtained.

Rice.

The operations of the Government rice mill were continued during the year. The rice industry is referred to elsewhere in this report.

Trocas Shell.

The quantity of this shell exported was 584 tons, valued at £21,565. The principal market of trocas shell is in Japan, where the shell is made into buttons, which closely resemble mother-of-pearl.

Pineapples.

The export of fresh pineapples amounted to 4,768 cases, valued at £1,408. The Government is at present considering a proposal to undertake, in conjunction with the Dominion Cannery, Limited, of Canada, the cultivation and canning of pineapples for export. The final details are now being considered and it is anticipated that planting will commence early in 1925.

Rubber.

The export of rubber increased from 89,753 lb., valued at £5,128, for 1923 to 159,995 lb., valued at £7,416, for the year under review.

Cotton.

The quantity of cotton prepared for export for the 1924 season was 180 bales, containing 61,199 lb., as compared with 33,072 lb. exported for the previous season. The cotton industry is referred to elsewhere in this report.

Biscuits.

The biscuit factory, erected in 1922, exported 334,365 lb. of biscuits, valued at £7,788, to neighbouring islands during the year.

Miscellaneous Exports.

The following products were exported during the year, in addition to the above :—Molasses, 4,783 tons, valued at £4,783 ; bêche-de-mer, 23 tons, valued at £1,896 ; hides, 3,844, valued at £2,941 ; turtle shell, 1,446 lb., valued at £1,313 ; oil, coconut, 74 tons, valued at £2,977.

Timber.

Many valuable timbers are found in Fiji. At present, however, the export of timber is limited, due mainly to the difficulties of internal transport. Several small mills provide sufficient timber for local use and for the manufacture of the cases in which bananas are exported. A company has recently been formed and the necessary plant erected to deal with a large area under timber in Colo North.

Cattle.

Cattle thrive well in all parts of Fiji. There are no serious endemic diseases affecting cattle, nor are there any infected ticks. Every precaution is taken by inspection and treatment of animals, both at the port of embarkation and at the port of arrival in the Colony, to guard against the introduction of diseases and pests from outside sources. A cattle dip is in course of construction at Suva, and all cattle from tick-infested countries will, in future, be required to be dipped prior to release from quarantine. "Stores" can best be raised in the dry zones,

whereas the luxuriant state of the wetter zones is more suited for fattening purposes. Large areas of land suitable for raising cattle are available for leasing. The erection by a company of a meat-canning plant is at present being considered.

Dairying.

The dairy scheme for returned sailors and soldiers has proved that excellent butter can be produced in Fiji and considerable quantities are now placed on the local market. Samples of Fiji butter have been examined by dairying experts, who have pronounced it to be of first-class quality. Special reference to the development of the dairy industry has already been made.

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown Grants for land on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission were issued. In this manner, 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912 Crown Grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year, by Ordinance No. III, the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to 99 years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed Ordinance No. 23 of 1916, which provides that, on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner shall pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor-in-Council may issue a lease renewal on re-assessed rental.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted generally to public auction, usually at an upset premium of £2 to cover cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. The lessee is called upon to arrange for the survey of the land in order that the lease may issue, but he may forthwith enter into occupation of the land.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1*d.* to 2*s.* per acre, coconut lands from 6*d.* to 5*s.*, hill land from 6*d.* to 2*s.*, banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5*s.* to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1924 :—

Alienated at the end of the year 1921:					
Nature of Title.	No. of Titles.	Area.	In process of Alienation.		Total Area.
			No. of Lots and Area Estimated.		
		Acres.	No.	Acres.	Acres.
Freehold	1,573	528,106	1	1	528,107
Leases of Crown Land ..	197	17,284	119	4,776	22,060
Leases of Native Land ..	5,852	345,063	1,764	25,971	371,034
					<hr/> 921,201

The total area of the Colony is 4,523,620 acres.

Climate.

The meteorological observations for 1924 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 168·80 inches, as against 109·33 inches in 1923 and 158·10 inches in 1922. This rainfall is 50·90 inches above the average. Rain fell on 250 days.

The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 9·12 inches on the 25th August.

Station.	Total for 1924.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1924 (in inches).
	inches.	
Narovurovu, Ba ..	88·75	103·85
Rarawai, Ba	94·54	81·62
Waininu, Bua	168·02	149·28
Buca Bay	90·00	95·72
Rabi	114·34	147·13
Savu Savu Bay	132·42	103·92
Vuna, Taveuni	159·14	133·88
Waiyevo, Taveuni ..	119·47	101·18
Vunidawa, Colo East ..	162·21	140·63
Nadarivatu, Colo North	147·67	129·63
Tavua, Colo North ..	90·26	71·89
Munia, Lau	66·04	69·69
Lautoka, C.S.R. Co. ..	78·24	68·95
Levuka	127·68	92·19
Makogai	93·22	81·63
Labasa, Colonial Sugar Refining Co.	95·93	98·32
Nadi	67·54	64·20
Lawaqa, Nadroga	64·71	70·25
Suva	168·80	117·90
Navua	177·13	138·23
Nausori	148·95	114·47
Rotuma	155·74	135·82

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 71·3° F. minimum, 82·4° F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 76·8° F. The highest temperature recorded was 93·2° F. on the 18th March, and the lowest was 62·1° F. on the 17th July. The hottest month was December, with an

average temperature of 87·9° F. maximum and 71·6° F. minimum, and the coolest month was September, with an average of 77·7° F. maximum and 68·7° F. minimum.

Communications.

SHIPPING.

The nationalities of vessels visiting the Colony are shown in the following table :—

<i>Nationality.</i>	1924.		1923.	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
British	111	352,407	120	359,849
American	10	27,534	5	6,353
Swedish	—	—	—	—
Norwegian	7	23,642	5	19,340
French	1	3,420	1	4,427
Total	129	407,003	131	389,969

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences were :—

<i>Nationality.</i>	1924.		1923.	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
European-owned vessels ..	71	2,424	75	2,682
Native-owned vessels ..	55	601	67	687
Other vessels	24	230	23	212
Total	150	3,255	165	3,581

Regular steamer communication with Fiji is as follows :—

To and from Sydney, via Auckland, Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line of steamers, four-weekly.

To and from Sydney, A.U.S.N. Company's passenger steamer, four-weekly.

From Sydney, Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, cargo steamer, four-weekly.

To and from Vancouver, via Honolulu, Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, four-weekly.

From the United Kingdom, the New Zealand Shipping Company's cargo steamers, quarterly.

To the United Kingdom, Clan Line of cargo steamers, two-monthly.

ROADS.

The total length of metalled roads in the Colony is less than 100 miles, but with gravelled roads and certain unmetalled roads in the dry zone the total length of roads capable of being used by motor traffic in fine weather is about 230 miles. Of this length about 110 miles is unsuitable for motor traffic during the wet season.

Bridle tracks linking up native villages and isolated estates are interlaced across the principal islands.

Roads that have been proclaimed as public roads as prescribed by Ordinance 21 of 1914 are maintained at the expense of the general revenue. Bridle tracks connecting native villages are weeded and kept generally in fair order communally in accordance with arrangements included annually in programmes of work drawn up in pursuance of resolutions adopted in native provincial councils.

A sum of £29,365 was spent on the maintenance of roads and bridges during the year, and £9,018 on improvement works.

The first section of the Main Trunk Road, which ends at the village of Sawani and known as Princes Road, was completed and opened to traffic on the 15th October, 1924. The new work which is about 8 miles in length, cost £24,995 and, linking with the Sawani-Davuilevu and Davuilevu-Suva roads, affords a circular motor drive of 28 miles. A considerable amount of settlement by Indians is taking place along the new section and plantations of bananas, pineapples, yaqona, etc., are rapidly replacing the bush.

The continuation of the Main Trunk Road beyond the Waimanu River has been postponed for the present.

RIVERS.

There are only three rivers which are navigable for any distance except by small or native craft. The most important is the Rewa River, which forms the main channel of communication between Suva and the interior of Vitilevu. This river is kept free of obstacles by the Rewa River Board, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Government, and is navigable for a distance of 50 miles for light draught launches.

For some years past the eradication of water hyacinth in the main rivers, and more particularly the Rewa River, has involved some expense to the Government. Its rapid spread tending to choke streams used more particularly by natives, necessitated its being declared a noxious weed, and, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 10 of 1919, the Governor-in-Council prescribed the steps to be taken by occupiers of land throughout the Colony for the eradication of the pest.

RAILWAYS.

There are no Government railways in the Colony, but the Colonial Sugar Refining Company have a narrow gauge railway extending from Tavua to Sigatoka, a distance of approximately 120 miles, over which, free of charge, passengers are carried on specified days.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Steamers of the following lines, namely, the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, Australia, New Zealand and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by the Government steamer, *Pioneer*, several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours' daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy, at the rate of £1,800 per annum, is paid to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line in Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established under Government control.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

Legislation.

During the year, nineteen Ordinances were passed. The majority of the new laws consolidated existing legislation and were passed with a view to expediting the revision of the laws of the Colony.

Among the Ordinances enacted during the year, mention may be made of the following :—

No. 1 transferred the administration of Indian estates from the Agent-General of Immigration to the Curator. It also granted powers of summary administration of small estates to the Curator.

No. 5 transferred the administration of the Arms Ordinance to the Police.

No. 12 provided for the registration of Imperial Letters Patent in the Colony.

D. R. STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

17th April, 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.					
No.	Colony, etc.				Year.
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast				1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report				1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands				1923
1232	Leeward Islands				1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States				1923
1234	Mauritius				"
1235	Straits Settlements				"
1236	Seychelles				"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate				1923-1924
1238	State of Brunei				1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States				"
1240	St. Lucia				"
1241	Bahamas				1924
1242	Falkland Islands				1923
1243	Ceylon				"
1244	Basutoland				1924
1245	Nigeria				"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands				1923-1924
1247	Bermuda				1923
1248	Weihaiwei				1924
1249	Gambia				"
1250	State of Brunei				"
1251	St. Helena				"
1252	Ashanti				1923-1924
1253	Cyprus				1924
1254	Zanzibar				"
1255	Gold Coast				1923-1924
1256	Federated Malay States				1924
1257	Nyasaland				"
1258	Turks and Caicos Islands				"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.				Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria				Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies				Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria				Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria				Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon				Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute				Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria				Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent				Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate				Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General				Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island				Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1260.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1208.)



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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

SITUATION AND AREA.

1. The Island of Trinidad is the most southerly of the West Indian Islands and is geographically and biologically a part of the South American Continent, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Paria, into which fall the northern mouths of the Orinoco. It is situated between $10^{\circ} 3'$ and $10^{\circ} 50'$ North latitude, and $60^{\circ} 55'$ and $61^{\circ} 56'$ West longitude from Greenwich. Its average length is about 69 miles, and breadth about 54 miles, and its total area is 1,862 square miles. The Island is traversed by three parallel ranges of hills running approximately east and west. The first, rising to over 3,000 feet, borders the northern coast; the second, rising only in one spot to 1,000 feet, runs diagonally across the centre of the Island; and the third, seldom rising above a few hundred feet, occupies a broad belt near the Southern coast.

2. The Island of Tobago lies between $11^{\circ} 8'$ and $11^{\circ} 21'$ North latitude and $60^{\circ} 30'$ and $60^{\circ} 50'$ West longitude, distance about 26 miles North-East of Trinidad. It is 26 miles long and $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles at its greatest breadth, and has an area of 114 square miles.

HISTORY.

3. Trinidad was first discovered by Columbus on the 31st July, 1498, and taken possession of by him for the Crown of Spain. It was visited by Sir Robert Dudley and by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1595, and was included in the Earl of Montgomery's grant in 1628. In 1640 it was raided by the Dutch, and in 1677 and 1690 by the French. In 1783 a Royal Proclamation was issued by the Court of Madrid by which extraordinary advantages were offered to foreigners of all nations to settle in Trinidad, the sole condition imposed being that they should profess the Roman Catholic religion. The result of the Proclamation was a large influx of population, which was augmented by many French families, who were driven from St. Domingo and elsewhere by the French Revolution, and to this

is due the preponderance of the French element in a Colony which never belonged to France. In 1797, Great Britain being then at war with Spain, a British expedition sailed from Martinique for the reduction of Trinidad which resulted in the surrender of the Island to His Majesty's forces, and on the 18th February, 1797, the articles of capitulation were signed by Sir R. Abercromby, Admiral Harvey, and Chacon, the Spanish Governor. In 1802 it was finally ceded to the Crown of Great Britain by the Treaty of Amiens.

4. Tobago was discovered by Columbus in 1498, at which time it was occupied by Caribs. The British Flag was first planted on the Island in 1580, and the sovereignty was claimed by James I. in 1608. In 1628 a grant of the Island was made by Charles I. to the Earl of Pembroke. It remained unoccupied until 1632, when 300 Zealanders were sent out by a company of Dutch merchants, who styled it New Walcheren. After a residence of about two years these settlers were all destroyed or expelled by the Caribs and Spaniards from Trinidad. In 1641 James Duke of Courland obtained a grant of the Island from Charles I., and in 1642 two vessels arrived with a number of Courlanders, who settled on the North side of the Island. These were followed by a second Dutch Colony in 1654, who established themselves on the Southern coast. In 1658 the Courlanders were overpowered by the Dutch, who remained in possession of the whole Island until 1662, when the Dutch Company resigned their right to it. In this year Cornelius Lampsis procured letters patent from Louis the Fourteenth creating him Baron of Tobago, and proprietor of the Island under the Crown of France. In 1664 the grant of the Island to the Duke of Courland was renewed by Charles II. The Dutch refused to recognise the Duke's title, but in 1667 they were compelled to evacuate it by the French Admiral Estras, who defeated the Dutch Admiral Binks in Scarborough Bay, whereupon Louis the Fourteenth restored it to the Duke of Courland, who made over his title to a company of London Merchants in 1681. In 1684, by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Island was declared neutral, the subjects of all European Powers being at liberty to form settlements but not to place garrisons on it. By the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Tobago was ceded by France to England in perpetuity. In 1781, it was captured by the French under the Duke of Bouillé, and in 1783 it was surrendered by treaty to the French Crown. In April, 1793, it was captured by a British force under Admiral Lefrey and General Cuyler, and was once more restored to the French by the Treaty of Peace in 1802, and again reconquered in 1803 by Commander Hood and General Greenfield. In 1814 it was finally ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown.

5. By Order in Council under Act 50 and 51 Vict : Tobago became part of the Colony of Trinidad as from 1st January, 1889. By a further Order in Council of 20th October, 1898. Tobago became a Ward of the United Colony of Trinidad and Tobago as from the 1st January, 1899.

CLIMATE.

6. The climate of Trinidad is tropical and may be divided into two seasons, a dry season from January to the middle of May, with an average rainfall of 2 to 3 inches per month, and a wet season from June to December, with an average of 8 inches per month. The coolest months of the year are December to April. The average temperature during the day is 84 and during the night 74. The average rainfall in 1924, from records taken at 110 stations, was 69.42 inches. The climate is healthy and by no means hurtful to Europeans, provided reasonable precautions are taken. Hurricanes are unknown.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

7. Sir Samuel Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., having been appointed Governor of Jamaica, left for England on the 10th July. Before his departure His Excellency unveiled the Trinidad and Tobago War Memorial erected at a cost of £6,300 from a design by L. F. Rosslyn, R.B.S.

8. Sir H. A. Byatt, K.C.M.G., arrived at Port-of-Spain on the 22nd November and assumed the Government of the Colony.

9. On the 21st August the new Constitution was brought into force by Order in Council. It provides for a Legislative Council of the Governor as President, twelve Official and thirteen Unofficial members. Of the Unofficial members six are nominated and seven elected.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

10. The estimated population of the two islands Trinidad and Tobago, at 31st December, 1924, was 381,753. The white population is chiefly composed of English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. The large majority of the inhabitants are natives of the West Indies of African descent, the balance being made up of East Indians, estimated at 123,903 and a small number of Chinese.

11. The Birth-rate was 33·66 per 1,000 and the Death-rate 20·02 per 1,000.

12. The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 1,587 and the infantile mortality rate was 124·07 per 1,000 Births.

13. The Death-rates from the principal diseases were as follows :—

Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	1·38	per 1,000.
Malaria	...	1·99	do.
Tuberculosis	...	1·26	do.
Dysentery	...	0·56	do.
Enteric Fever	...	0·55	do.
Ankylostomiasis	...	0·82	do.

14. Measures for the reduction of Infantile Mortality have been maintained. The Mothers' and Infants' Clinic in Port-of-Spain continues to be well attended, and branches of the Child Welfare League are established in six country districts.

15. The year was a very healthy one, the Birth-rate being high and the Death-rate and Infantile Mortality rate reaching a low record for the Colony.

16. Venereal Clinics on modern lines continue to be well attended at the Out-patients' Departments of the Colonial Hospitals, Port-of-Spain and San Fernando.

17. On the recommendation of the Central Board of Health, drainage schemes for the control of malaria are being continued in the country districts. Minor Measures of a similar nature were maintained in all country districts during the year.

18. The intensive treatment of Hook-worm disease was continued by the Rockefeller International Board of Health. The Central Board of Health co-operated by enforcing the establishment of latrines in advance of the treatment in the areas about to be operated in.

HOSPITALS.

19. The following hospital accommodation is provided :—
 Colonial Hospital, Port-of-Spain ... 340 beds
 The San Fernando Hospital ... 123 do.
 The Government District Hospitals in Tobago
 and at Arima, St. Joseph, Tacarigua,
 Couva, Princes Town and Cedros ... 248 do.

There are also small temporary hospitals at Sangre Grande, Mayaro and Toco.

FINANCE.

REVENUE.

20. The Revenue of the Colony for the year 1924 amounted to £1,586,834, less than the Estimate by £93,530 and less than the Revenue for the preceding financial year by £46,717. The following comparative table shows the several heads of Revenue and how the decrease was made up :—

Heads of Revenue.	1923.	1924.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	594,043	556,491	...	37,552
2. Licences, Excise, &c.	509,055	454,738	...	54,317
3. Tax on Incomes	68,294	106,719	38,425	
4. Fees of Court and Office	150,036	138,734	.	11,302
5. Post Office	37,156	37,649	493	
6. Government Railway	186,062	171,775	...	14,287
7. Rent of Government Property	1,687	1,679	...	8
8. Interest	12,199	10,034	..	2,165
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	4,132	6,617	2,485	
10. Land Sales, Royalties	60,676	71,381	10,705	
11. Coastal Steamer "Belize"	9,970	12,971	3,001	
12. Produce Tax	242	18,046	17,804	
	1,633,552	1,586,834	72,913	119,631
	Net decrease		...	£ 46,718

21. An export tax on produce was levied during the year for General Revenue purposes at the following rates :—

			£	s.	d.
Sugar,	per 1,000 lb.	..	...	2	8
Coconuts,	per 1,000	...	...		9
Copra,	per 1,000 lb.	...	...	2	8
Rum,	per 100 gallons	...	...	6	0
Bitters,	per 100 gallons	...	...	1	10 0
Molasses,	per 100 gallons	..	...		3

22. The tax on incomes in excess of £250 per annum imposed for revenue purposes realised £106,719. The rates levied were :—

At 3d. in the £1	up to £	500	
6d.	do.	from	501-£ 750
9d.	do.	do.	751- 1,000
1/-	do.	do.	1,001- 1,500
1/6	do.	do.	1,501- 2,000
2/-	do.	do.	2,001- 3,000
2/6	do.	do.	3,001- 4,000
3/-	do.	do.	4,001- 5,000
4/-	do.	do.	5,001- 6,000
5/-	do.	do.	6,001- 8,000
6/-	do.	do.	8,001 upwards
2/6	do.	do.	(Company Rate.)

EXPENDITURE.

23. The total expenditure for the year amounted to £1,572,765 being £75,399 less than the Estimates, and £52,676 less than the expenditure for the previous year, and was £14,069 less than the revenue for the same period.

24. The expenditure included £36,567 on account of extraordinary expenditure, of which £11,655 was expended on Extraordinary Public Works and £24,912 on Roads and Bridges.

25. The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years were as under :—

Year.	Revenue.	EXPENDITURE.		
		Recurrent.	Extra-ordinary.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1920	1,917,743	1,566,113	86,484	1,652,597
1921	1,867,944	1,889,053	185,874	2,074,927
1922	1,661,607	1,846,771	92,444	1,939,215
1923	1,633,552	1,590,166	35,275	1,625,441
1924	1,586,834½	1,536,198	36,567	1,572,765

BALANCES.

26. The Balance Sheet of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, showed a deficit of £4,593 and at 31st December, 1924, a surplus of £9,477.

PUBLIC DEBT.

27. The Public Debt at 31st December, 1923, amounted to £3,425,638. £18,885 was redeemed during the year, leaving a total indebtedness at 31st December, 1924, of £3,406,753. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £585,727.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

28. British Currency and United States gold are legal tender. Accounts are kept in sterling by the Government and in dollars by the public, and the coin in circulation is almost exclusively British silver and bronze, there being no limit to silver as legal tender.

29. In 1903 an Ordinance providing for the issue of Government Currency Notes was brought into force. Under this Ordinance notes of the denominations of \$1, \$2 and \$1,000 have been issued, the total value in circulation at 31st December, 1924, amounting to £117,290.

30. Government Savings Banks are established in 31 districts with a head office in Port-of-Spain. The total number of depositors at 31st December, 1924, was 28,309 with deposits amounting to £364,360. The savings banks are largely made use of by the East Indians, of whom at the 31st December, there were 10,749 depositors with £143,316 to their credit.

31. The Private Banks are the Colonial Bank, paid up capital £900,000 with a note circulation in the Colony estimated at £250,000; the Royal Bank of Canada, paid up capital £4,250,000 with an authorized note circulation in the Colony of £312,500; Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Company, Limited, paid up capital of £500,000; and the Canadian Bank of Commerce, paid up capital £3,125,000 with an authorized note circulation of \$750,000. In addition to engaging in banking business of every character, the Colonial Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce have savings bank branches and pay the same rate of interest as is paid by the Government Savings Bank, viz : 3 per cent.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

32. The c. i. f. value of the total imports amounted to £4,287,943 of which goods valued at £4,286,410 were cleared for home consumption. In addition, goods valued at £184,168 were entered for transshipment giving a total import trade of £4,772,111, a decrease as compared with 1923 of £363,717.

33. The nature and value of the imports (excluding transshipments) for the last five years were as under:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class 1—Food, Drink and Tobacco	2,980,839	2,748,580	1,998,878	1,830,393	1,715,456
Class 2—Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	833,226	504,219	334,314	452,567	360,350
Class 3—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	4,622,614	3,570,813	2,223,330	1,991,870	2,181,592
Class 4—Miscellaneous and unclassified articles	49,837	19,279	19,359	9,978	15,784
Class 5—Bullion and Specie...	3,716	60,803	28,999	34,703	14,851
Total ...	8,490,232	6,903,694	4,604,880	4,319,421	4,287,943

34. Of the imports entered for home consumption, goods to the value of £751,218 were admitted free of duty. The Customs duty collected on the remainder amounted to £610,614.

35. The following table gives the direction of the import trade for the last five years, and shows that the effect which the war has had in deflecting the trade with the United Kingdom to other markets is on the wane. The share of the United Kingdom which in 1914 was 31·6 per cent. and had dropped in 1920 to 26·58 per cent. shows an upward tendency, being 34·57 per cent. for the year 1924 while the share of the United States which in 1914 was 29·5 per cent. and rose to 41·39 in 1920 shewed a decrease over the 1923 figures falling to 23·02 per cent.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
U. Kingdom...	2,182,025 26·58%	1,726,585 25·01%	1,367,022 29·57%	1,271,012 29·38%	1,403,819 32·97%
Canada	1,252,009 15·26	1,155,087 16·59	956,378 21·17	806,933 20·49	814,286 20·65
Other British Possessions	362,760 4·42	273,794 4·02	315,613 7·63	365,427 8·64	318,503 7·81
United States	3,397,503 41·39	2,457,593 36·11	1,248,829 27·64	1,066,855 25·21	934,845 23·02
Venezuela	677,421 8·25	937,108 13·77	289,567 6·41	360,345 8·53	293,065 7·22
France	71,729 0·87	55,758 0·82	48,859 1·08	63,671 1·50	71,750 1·84
Germany	...	...	48,224 1·07	38,937 0·92	58,651 1·49
O. Countries...	264,970 3·22	199,985 2·91	213,978 4·77	198,217 4·64	162,889 4·06
	8,208,807	6,805,940	4,518,670	4,231,397	4,061,011

The figures in respect of 1924 do not include parcel post which amounted to £226,932, of which it is estimated that 70 per cent. was from the United Kingdom, 20 per cent. from the United States, 5 per cent. from Canada and 5 per cent. from Other Countries.

EXPORTS.

36. The f. o. b. value of the exports for the year amounted to £4,893,863, of which £1,521,225 represented the value of local products and manufactures, and £372,638 of re-exports. The value of goods transhipped amounted to £484,168 giving a total export trade of £5,378,031. As compared with 1923 there was an increase of £222,817 in the value of the exports of local products.

37. The value of the exports for the last five years is given below, the products of the Colony being shown separately from re-exports and transit goods:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Local Produce ...	7,435,361	4,093,395	3,706,618	4,298,378	4,521,225
Re-exports ...	973,250	590,593	522,785	487,216	372,638
Total ...	8,408,611	4,683,988	4,229,403	4,785,594	4,893,863
Transit Goods ...	1,007,934	509,988	612,527	518,407	484,168
Total ...	9,416,545	5,193,976	4,841,930	5,304,001	5,378,031

38. Dividing the exports (exclusive of transhipments) into classes, their nature and value were as under:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class I—Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	6,987,758	3,317,216	2,715,734	2,720,037	2,711,618
Class II—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Un-manufactured ...	1,300,457	1,144,258	1,308,919	1,956,173	2,085,957
Class III—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured...	85,077	101,289	109,060	79,896	73,273
Class IV—Miscellaneous and Unclassified ...	2,916	1,541	3,492	2,591	4,427
Class V—Bullion and Specie...	32,403	119,684	92,198	26,897	18,588
Total ...	8,408,611	4,683,988	4,229,403	4,785,594	4,893,863

39. The quantity and value of the principal products exported during the year were :—

Asphalt (including Manjak)	...	166,757½ tons	... £ 385,949
Bitters	...	44,569 gals.	... 44,567
Cocoa	...	60,359,629 lb.	... 1,249,396
Coconuts	...	10,163,610 nuts	... 51,929
Copra	...	11,180,358 lb.	... 164,300
Molasses	...	1,505,881 gals.	... 24,843
Rum	...	85,632 gals.	... 18,448
Sugar	...	43,422 tons	... 1,233,944
Petroleum, Crude and Fuel	...	98,593,167 gals.	... 981,348
Petrol Spirit	...	13,469,621 gals.	... 362,235
Refined Kerosene	...	839,526 gals.	... 26,513

40. The following table gives the direction of the export trade for the last five years :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
U. Kingdom ...	3,695,041 43·94%	1,899,004 40·54%	1,643,998 38·86%	2,900,525 45·98%	2,255,527 46·09%
Canada ...	194,780 2·32 ..	385,584 8·23 ..	465,190 11·00 ..	315,177 6·59 ..	465,774 9·52 ..
O. B. Posses- sions	391,072 4·66 ..	223,142 4·76 ..	248,068 5·87 ..	281,771 5·89 ..	325,636 6·65 ..
United States...	2,148,570 25·55 ..	1,336,144 28·53 ..	1,058,718 25·03 ..	1,086,034 22·69 ..	1,077,191 22·01 ..
Venezuela ...	86,603 1·03 ..	58,394 1·24 ..	71,366 1·68 ..	45,279 ·95 ..	34,812 ·71 ..
France ...	972,413 11·56 ..	140,897 3·01 ..	272,719 6·45 ..	340,786 7·12 ..	195,368 3·99 ..
Germany ...	...	...	72,637 1·72 ..	91,118 1·90 ..	110,922 2·27 ..
O. Countries ...	556,757 6·62 ..	473,149 10·10 ..	249,409 5·90 ..	277,620 5·80 ..	252,987 5·17 ..
Ships' Stores and Bunkers	363,375 4·32 ..	167,674 3·59 ..	147,300 3·49 ..	147,284 3·08 ..	175,646 3·59 ..
Total ...	8,408,611	4,683,988	4,229,403	4,785,594	4,933,863

41. The United Kingdom holds first place as the Colony's largest purchaser with 46·09 per cent. of the total exports, the United States second place with 22·01 per cent. and Canada third with 9·52 per cent. The exports to the United Kingdom fell from 40·54 per cent. in 1921, to 38·86 per cent. in 1922, but rose to 45·98 in 1923 and 46·09 in 1924, while those to the United States fell from 28·53 per cent. in 1921 to 25·03 per cent. in 1922 and to 22·01 in 1924. The principal decrease is in exports to France.

TOTAL TRADE.

42. The total aggregate trade for the last five years, has been :—

Year.			Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1920	...	...	9,498,166	9,416,545	18,914,711
1921	...	...	7,413,682	5,193,976	12,607,658
1922	...	...	5,217,407	4,841,930	10,059,337
1923	...	...	4,837,828	5,304,601	10,141,829
1924	...	...	4,772,111	5,378,031	10,150,142

SHIPPING.

43. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year at the several ports of entry was 4,023 with a tonnage of 4,043,236 a decrease of 453 vessels and an increase of 143,654 tons as compared with 1923. There were 2,013 arrivals of 2,029,165 tons and 2,010 departures of 2,014,017 tons, of which 65·18 per cent. was British, as summarised below :—

	Number.	Tons.		
British Steamers entered	480	1,295,229		
British Steamers cleared	479	1,276,734		
British Sailing Vessels				
entered	485	20,613		
Do. cleared	479	20,797		
			Number.	Tons.
Total British	...	...	1,923	2,613,373
Foreign Steamers entered	398	682,788		
Foreign Steamers cleared	399	681,921		
Foreign Sailing Vessels				
entered	650	30,535		
Do. cleared	653	34,619		
Total Foreign	...	...	2,100	1,429,863
Total number and tons	...	...	4,023	4,043,236

AGRICULTURE.

44. The staple products of the Colony are Cacao, Sugar (with its by-products molasses and rum) and Coconuts. The chief minor products exported are Coffee and Rubber.

The price of Cacao which had dropped dangerously low during 1922-23 improved slightly early in the year, and advanced markedly during the last three or four months. Unfortunately the new crop was late so but little advantage was gained.

Sugar and Coconuts realized better prices than in 1923. The export of Coffee showed a sudden increase.

45. *Cacao*.—The exports, value £1,165,816, were 56,402,755 lb.; about 11,000,000 lb. below 1923 and 6,000,000 below the average of the last five years. The reduction is doubtless due partly to neglect of cultivation entailed by the long prevailing low prices, and partly to unfavourable weather at the end of the year.

46. *Sugar*.—The sugar crop was 52,045 tons, which although still below the average, was about 10,000 tons above that of 1923. The exports were: Sugar 43,423 tons of the value £1,233,944; Molasses 1,505,881 gallons of the value £24,843; and rum 82,751 gallons of the value £18,063. The exports of molasses and rum were both much greater than in 1923.

The Department of Agriculture with the co-operation of the estates was able to keep the Mosaic disease well under control and, although not eradicated, the damage done was negligible. There was one of the periodical outbreaks of the Froghopper pest in the second half of the year which it is estimated will reduce the crop for 1925 by about 5 per cent. Proposals have been made by a joint Committee of the Agricultural and Commercial bodies for further work on this pest.

In the hope of allaying the dissatisfaction of some Cane Farmers with the price paid for their canes, His Excellency the Governor appointed a standing Cane Prices Committee to check the figures on which the prices paid under the sliding scale are based.

47. Angostura Bitters are manufactured entirely in the Colony the exports being 44,569 gallons of the value of £44,569.

48. *Coconuts*.—The cultivation of Coconuts continues to increase, but there was a drop in exports compared with the record year 1923. The crop is exported in three forms: whole nuts, copra and coconut oil. Taking 1 lb. of copra as equivalent

to 3 nuts, and 1 gallon of oil as 45 nuts, the exports represented 45,351,339 nuts, viz. :—

Coconuts	9,927,600	of the value	£ 50,833
Copra	11,180,358 lb.	do.	164,300
Coconut Oil	41,837 galls.	do.	7,631

Total value £222,764 compared with £191,583 in 1923.

49. *Rubber*.—Para (Hevea) rubber thrives but is dealt with seriously on only one or two estates.

The exports were 86,153 lb. (£5,920) compared with 60,699 lb. (£3,828) in 1923.

50. *Coffee*.—There was a marked increase in exports; 4,620 cwt. valued at £15,873 compared about 15 cwt. worth £53 in 1923.

51. *Limes*.—Owing largely to the discouragement caused by Withertip disease, there were no exports in 1922. In 1923 1,522 gallons of concentrated lime juice were exported, value £381, and in 1924 the corresponding figures were 7,505 and £1,015.

52. *Fruit*.—The increased interest in fruit was maintained and from the Nurseries of the Department of Agriculture there were sold sufficient budded and grafted plants of citrus fruits mangoes and avocados to add about 100 acres to the area under fruit.

On the initiative of the Chamber of Commerce a scheme was being drawn up at the close of the year for more extended trials with bananas. This is being handled by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

The Government Fruit Dépôt started in 1923 has continued to do useful work.

53. *Food Supply*.—The Government Ground Provisions Dépôt, opened in 1917, has continued to be of service to both producers and consumers. The branch dépôt at Princes Town opened in 1923 was not found to be of service and has been closed. The dépôt at Tobago remains to be of utility to the small proprietor, buying produce for export to Port-of-Spain.

54. *Tobago*.—The agricultural exports from Tobago to Port-of-Spain which in 1923 showed a slight rise of about £1,000 over 1922, increased again by nearly £15,000 to £91,133.

55. *Agricultural Credit Societies*.—The registration of one society had to be cancelled during the year and one new society was formed, leaving the number 31 as before. Some have continued to do excellent work: many, however, are passing through a difficult period owing to the burden of comparatively large loans taken up in years of high prices and difficult to repay during the succeeding depression.

56. *Agricultural Bank and Agricultural Relief.* — The Agricultural Bank was established with a capital of £250,000. It commenced operations in lending money (a) as mortgage loans of not more than 50 per cent. of the value of the estate, repayable in 30 years under an amortization scheme, or (b) as crop advances repayable in one year with extension under certain conditions. The limit for loans is £2,100 and for advances £210. The rate of interest charged is 7 per cent.

It was considered desirable to continue the operations of the Agricultural Relief Committee, which was instituted in the period of acute depression. It makes advances to maintain the cultivation of estates, receiving the produce in return. The Agricultural Bank will be able to deal with suitable cases and others are being gradually wound up. No new advances were made during the year.

The Mortgages Extension Ordinance, which protects the owners of mortgaged properties from foreclosure provided interest is not more than six months overdue, was again extended until March 31, 1925.

57. *Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.* — The foundation stone of the new main building of the College was laid by His Excellency the Governor on January 15: it is expected to be opened in 1925. During the year the model sugar factory of the College was erected and equipped so that it can commence work with the crop of 1925. It will provide for the first time in the British Empire a thoroughly practical course of training in sugar technology. Facilities on the Experiment Stations, Farm and Cacao estate of the Department of Agriculture have been placed at the service of the College and close co-operation is maintained.

FORESTS.

58. The area of forest land in the Colony is 1,004 square miles of Crown Land (exclusive of some small areas of private land still under forest), of which about 800 square miles, or approximately 80 per cent. is under commercial timber. The area set aside as Forest Reserves is estimated at 338 square miles or nearly 17 per cent. of the total area of the Colony. In locating the Forest Reserves mainly the indirect utility of Forests was considered. This indirect utility consists of the influence of forest growth on climatic conditions, in maintaining the humidity of the air, in protecting the water supply and preventing erosion. In addition the Reserves provide breeding places for the bird and insect friends of Agriculture. For the most part the Reserves are situated in hilly and mountainous land, around the sources of

streams. Some are designed as wind breaks and others are situated on poor land unfit for agricultural cultivation. During the year a Committee appointed by the Governor considered a Report put forward by the Conservator of Forests and their main recommendations comprised a policy providing for a fuller utilisation of the native timbers of the Colony, and for their replacement by the regeneration of 900 acres per annum. The production of seasoned timber being the first step, this work has now been taken in hand by the Forest Department.

59. Within the Forest Reserves there are now 1,248 acres of plantations containing nearly 350,000 planted trees. Of these 93 per cent. are indigenous species including 153,000 Cedar (*Cedrela mexicana*, Roem.), 81,000 Poui (*Tecoma serratifolia*, Don), 64,000 Cypre (*Cordia gerascanthus*, Jacq.), 9,000 Balsam (*Copaifera officinalis*, Jacq.) and 5,000 of other species, while the remaining 11 per cent. are exotic species including 27,000 Teak (*Tectona grandis*, L.). The Teak was first introduced from Burma in 1913, some of the trees now being nearly 70 feet high and over 3 feet in girth; the older trees are producing fertile seed in sufficient quantities for supplying the new plantations annually made as well as limited demands from places outside the Colony.

60. No new plantations were formed in 1924, the policy being to concentrate on silvicultural research. Forty-five 1-acre experimental plots were formed during the year with a view to the acquisition of knowledge respecting the silvicultural characteristics of several of the more important species especially *Cedrela mexicana*, Roem. A further 37 acres underwent experimental improvement cleanings. These operations were all carried out within the Forest Reserves.

61. The cut of timber of all kinds from Crown Lands during 1924, is estimated at 1,809,950 cubic feet, of which about 1,080,000 cubic feet is estimated to consist of the softer woods largely used for firewood and corduroy. These figures do not include wood cut from private lands, the quantities of which, though comparatively small, cannot be calculated. About half of the total cut of timber was utilised by the Petroleum industry: 14,061 cubic feet of Cedar value £1,966 and 15,713 cubic feet of timber value £840 were exported. One wood cutting concession, covering 6,000 acres is held by a sawmill concern that turns out lumber for local use. Eleven concessions, covering about 35,000 acres, are held by petroleum companies and are operated for the benefit of that industry. About 8,000 licences, mostly for less than 10 trees each and covering areas distributed throughout the Colony, were granted during the year.

62. The Forest Revenue for 1924 amounted to £10,678 and Expenditure to £7,237 leaving a surplus of income over expenditure of £3,441. In addition, timber to the value of £692 was supplied to the Public Works Department. The total surplus for the past 15 years now amounts to £48,927.

MINES.

63. The chief mineral industries of the Colony are Petroleum, Asphalt and Manjak.

64. Coal, Iron, Graphite and Gypsum are known to occur in small quantities and traces of Gold have been found in the Northern Range, but none of these minerals have up to the present proved to be of economic importance.

65. In the year 1856 a company operating at La Brea in the vicinity of the celebrated Pitch Lake, refined Local Asphalt for lamp and lubricating oils. In 1867 the first well was drilled for oil at Aripere and from that year to 1908 attempts followed with varying success. In 1908 the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company drilled one of the first big wells, and in the year 1910 this Company exported the first steamship cargo of oil from the Island. The total production of petroleum in 1908 was approximately 6,000 gallons, in 1912, 15,300,000 gallons and in 1924, 141,981,420 gallons.

66. Practically all the Petroleum produced in Trinidad has been obtained from strata of Tertiary age. The Island is separated into two geological provinces by an East to West fault passing near Matura in the East to Port-of-Spain in the West. This fault divides the Metamorphic area of the Northern Range from the covering of Tertiary sediments to the South. The chief features of the Tertiary structure are: A synclinal basin between the Central and Northern Mountain Ranges: an anticlinal uplift along the South side of the Central range striking in an E.N.E.-W.S.W. direction from Pointe-à-Pierre to the Nariva Swamp; and an undulating basin area between San Fernando, Mayaro Point, Guayaguayare Bay and Icacos Point with an East-West strike containing several zones of anticlinal and synclinal folding. These numerous local folds are important in the concentration of Petroleum and it is upon this latter area that the majority of the producing fields are situated. The average Specific Gravity of the Crude oil from the different fields varies from 0.9553 to 0.8015.

67. Two shallow wells were drilled in Tobago in the year 1911 without success.

68. At the end of 1924 there were sixteen Companies actively engaged in the exploitation of oil in the Colony. These Companies, having a total share capital of more than £14,000,000, held nearly 200,000 acres of Crown lands under Licenses and Leases, of which approximately 167,000 acres were held under Mining Lease.

69. The principal oil producing Companies are the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited from Crown and private lands at Fyzabad, Barrackpore, &c.; the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, from Crown and private lands at Point Fortin, Parry Lands, &c.; the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, from their own lands at Brighton; the Petroleum Development Company, Limited, from Crown lands in the Ward of Oropuche; the Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Limited, from Crown and private lands at Fyzabad; the Trinidad Central Oilfields Limited, from Crown lands at Tabaquite; the Kern (Trinidad) Oilfields, Limited, from private lands at Guapo and the General Petroleum Co. of Trinidad, Ltd., from private lands at Oropuche. The area held by the Trinidad Central Oilfields Limited under Prospecting License was taken up under Mining Lease as from the 1st January, 1923. There are four refineries at work in the Colony situated at Pointe-à-Pierre, Point Fortin, Brighton and Tabaquite, and all grades of petroleum products from Petrol to Road Oil are produced.

70. Seventy-six wells with a total footage of 87,148 were drilled on Crown lands and thirty-four wells with a total footage of 58,653 were drilled on private lands during the year. The total number of wells drilled to date in the Colony is 928, of which 596 are on Crown lands and 332 on private lands. The total quantity of oil produced during 1924 was 141,981,420 gallons, an increase of 35,200,889 gallons over the production for 1923. Of this total, 87,019,415 gallons were from Crown lands or lands in which the oil rights belonged to the Crown. The Royalty paid by operating Companies on oil, won from Crown rights during the year 1924 amounted to £31,006 as against £24,845 in 1923, and wayleaves to £9,291 as against £7,366 in 1923. The quantity of crude oil and products exported amounted to 112,858,523 gallons valued at £1,367,160 as against 85,136,457 gallons valued at £1,233,137 in 1923. The exports in 1924 formed 30·2 per cent. of the total exports of the Colony and exceeded in value the exports of the four other staple products of the Colony, viz.:—

Cocoa	...	£1,165,816
Sugar, Molasses and Rum	...	1,276,850
Asphalt	...	385,945
Coconuts and Copra	...	215,133

The petroleum industry provides employment for nearly 2,000 men.

71. The quantity of Asphalt produced during 1924 was 223,867 tons having a value of approximately £139,917 and yielding a Revenue of £74,050 as compared with £72,448 in 1923. The quantity of stone quarried for roads and other purposes amounted to 198,089 tons valued at £25,399. The Asphalt and Quarrying industries provide employment for nearly 2,000 men.

LAND.

72. The lands of the Colony can be divided into two classes, viz.:—Those which are vested in the Crown and those which have already been alienated. Crown land is alienated by Royal Grant under the hand of the Governor and Seal of the Colony. The alienation of Crown lands can be again sub-divided into those sold under freehold title, for agricultural purposes, and those held from the Crown on leasehold for 199 or 999 years for building purposes in residential areas, such as Port-of-Spain, St. Joseph and the new village of La Brea. Lands for agricultural purposes situate in the Counties of St. George, St. David, St. Andrew, Caroni and Tobago are sold on petition to the Governor as Intendant of Crown lands at the following rates: £2 10s. 0d. per acre in parcels not exceeding 20 acres: at £3 15s. 0d. per acre in parcels exceeding 20 acres, but not exceeding 100 acres: and in parcels exceeding 100 acres at not less than £5 per acre except in special instances and by permission of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Lands situate in the Counties of Victoria, St. Patrick, Nariva and Mayaro are sold on petition in parcels of not less than 5 acres and upwards at £4 per acre. These prices include the cost of Survey, Registration and Grant. No purchaser of agricultural land can be permitted to buy more than one parcel of land at a time nor can he submit a further petition for additional land, until at least half the land already purchased is brought under cultivation, except with the permission of the Intendant. Three hundred and forty Grants and Leases of an acreage of 1,913 of a total value of £8,336 were issued during the year. The Land Regulations of the 24th December, 1917, and the Order made by His Excellency the Intendant, which was published on the 29th November, 1923, prescribed the mode of application, conditions of sale, and price of Crown lands. The area of Crown land remaining unsold on the 31st December, 1923, was :—

Trinidad	...	...	569,406 acres.
Tobago	...	...	15,777 do.
			<hr/> 585,183 acres,

a great deal of which is in Forest Reserves or under License to Oil Companies.

73. Alienated land varies in value according to its situation and fertility, and the nature and condition of the cultivation. The following may be taken as average values of properly cultivated land :—

Land with Cocoa (full bearing)	...	£40 per acre.
Do. Coconuts (full bearing)	...	100 do.
Do. Canes	...	20 do.
Do. Other products or cleared for cultivation		£10 and 20 do.

74. Land alienated from the Crown prior to 1902 is held under a Grant, extant or presumed, from either the Spanish or the British Crown according to the date of its alienation. In these older Grants the reservation vary considerably, and in the oldest British Grants the terms are conditional. The Grants issued since 1869 contain the following reservation:—

The right to resume for works of public utility and convenience $\frac{1}{20}$ part of the land granted, except any land on which buildings have been erected, or which may be in use as gardens or otherwise for the more convenient occupation of such buildings.

From 1869 to 1889: All precious metals and coal were reserved to the Crown.

From 1889 to January, 1902: All precious metals or coals, together with Asphalt in certain areas, were reserved.

From January, 1902, to 1910: All precious metals, coal, oil and other minerals (except Asphalt) were reserved.

From 1910: All precious metals, coal, oil and other minerals are reserved.

A Crown Grant issued since January, 1902, is registered free of charge to the Grantee under the provisions of the Real Property Ordinance, a statute which embodies the principles of the Torrens system of Land registration, and the Grant becomes the Certificate of Title guaranteed by the Crown.

75. The mineral rights of the Crown can be leased or licensed as follows: Under Exploration and Prospecting Licenses or Mining Lease. A petition for an Exploration License should describe the land required, giving the approximate acreage and boundaries and be accompanied by a deposit of £5. The license is granted at the discretion of the Intendant and grants the holder the right to explore or examine the surface of any lands on which the Crown has oil and mineral rights. The license is usually for one or two years and can be an exclusive one; it is issued for the purpose of enabling the licensee to select an area over which to apply for a Prospecting License for which a fee of £5 is charged. On the issue of Exploration and Prospecting Licenses over Crown Lands the following fees shall be paid:—

For an Exploration License in respect of Crude Oil underlying Crown Lands.

For any area not over 250 acres				an annual fee of £	
For any area over	250 acres	but not over	500 acres	do.	£ 50.
Do.	do.	do.	1,000 do.	do.	£ 80.
Do.	do.	do.	2,000 do.	do.	£ 100.
Do.	do.	do.	3,000 do.	do.	£ 150.
Do.	do.	do.	5,000 do.	do.	£ 200.
Do.	do.	do.	7,000 do.	do.	£ 250.
Do.	do.	do.	10,000 do.	do.	£ 320.
Do.	do.	do.	14,000 do.	do.	£ 400.
Do.	do.	do.	20,000 do.	do.	£ 550.
Do.	do.	do.	30,000 do.	do.	£ 700.
Do.	do.	do.	50,000 do.	do.	£ 900.
Do.	do.	do.	100,000 do.	do.	£ 1,000.
Do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	£ 1,250.

All such fees shall be payable in advance.

For an Exploration License in respect of other minerals no charge shall be made.

For a Prospecting License in respect of Crude Oil underlying Crown Lands or over alienated lands with the oil and other mineral rights reserved to the Crown which may if the petitioner so desires include other bituminous minerals (except coal) and natural gas, without additional fee, that is to say :—

For any area not over 250 acres						an annual fee of £		100.
For any area over 250 acres but not over 500 acres						do.	£	160.
Do.	do.	500	do.	do.	1,000	do.	do.	£ 200.
Do.	do.	1,000	do.	do.	2,000	do.	do.	£ 300.
Do.	do.	2,000	do.	do.	3,000	do.	do.	£ 400.
Do.	do.	3,000	do.	do.	5,000	do.	do.	£ 500.
Do.	do.	5,000	do.	do.	7,000	do.	do.	£ 640.
Do.	do.	7,000	do.	do.	10,000	do.	do.	£ 800.
Do.	do.	10,000	do.	do.	14,000	do.	do.	£ 1,100.
Do.	do.	14,000	do.	do.	20,000	do.	do.	£ 1,400.
Do.	do.	20,000	do.	do.	30,000	do.	do.	£ 1,800.
Do.	do.	30,000	do.	do.	50,000	do.	do.	£ 2,000.
Do.	do.	50,000	do.	do.	100,000	do.	do.	£ 2,500.

For a Prospecting Licence in respect of other minerals, a fee at the rate of 1/- per acre of the land included in the license shall be paid.

All such fees shall be payable in advance.

The holder of a Prospecting License is entitled to enter upon the land named in the license for such period as the Governor may deem desirable, which period shall not exceed two years with exclusive power to search in any part of it for the product or products named, to set up works, sink wells and export the produce subject, however, to the payment of such rates and duties as may be imposed by law upon such produce. If necessary, and provided the Governor considers the licensee has carried out the terms of his contract, the license may be extended for a period not exceeding a further two years. At the end or sooner determination of the period of the Prospecting License a Mining Lease may be granted over so much of the land held under License as the Governor may consider necessary for the purpose of erection of works, buildings, &c., for the continuation of the operations, at an annual rent to be agreed upon, and the licensee also has the privilege of leasing the crude oil or minerals underlying or upon such portion of the lands which has been held under the license as the licensee may select for a term of 21 years; this period may be extended, subject to such payment by way of rent or royalty as the Governor may approve. The lands held under Mining Lease must be first surveyed and all expenses of surveys and fees of grant or registration must be paid by the applicant together with a fee of £5 for expenses in connection with the lease.

76. The number of applications received for licenses to explore and prospect for oil during 1924 was 13.

LEGISLATION.

77. Twenty-eight Ordinances were passed during the year 1924.

78. The following are the more important which are likely to be of interest outside the Colony :- -

No. 2. The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance fixes the rate of tax on incomes over £250 per annum of persons other than companies and allows residents in the Colony and non-resident British subjects deductions in respect of wife, children and life insurance.

No. 12. The Agricultural Bank Ordinance. This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a bank for the purpose of fostering and encouraging agriculture in the Colony. The Bank is to be administered by a Board of five members appointed by the Governor. The funds of the Bank will be the proceeds of loans raised by the Government, but pending the raising of a loan, the Treasurer may be authorized to make advances to the Bank. The Board may make loans on first mortgage on agricultural lands, not exceeding £2,000 in any one case. The loans are repayable by equal annual or semi-annual instalments sufficient to cover the interest and to provide for repayment within a definite period, probably thirty years. Temporary advances not exceeding two-thirds of the value of the crop, and not in any case exceeding £1,000, may be made for labour and other crop expenses and for maintenance and improvement. Such advances will bear interest and be repayable on 30th June next following the date of the advance. Any owner who applies a loan or advance to purposes other than those authorized by the Ordinance or disposes of crops or produce in respect of which an advance has been made except in manner directed by the Board, is liable to a fine of £100 or imprisonment for six months.

The Governor in Executive Council is empowered to make regulations for all matters necessary for regulating the administration of the Bank and carrying out the provisions of the Ordinance.

No. 14. The Mortgages Extension (Continuance) Ordinance provides that the moratorium declared by Ordinance 1-1922 shall continue until the 31st March, 1925, and then expire.

For a Prospecting License in respect of Crude Oil underlying Crown Lands or over alienated lands with the oil and other mineral rights reserved to the Crown which may if the petitioner so desires include other bituminous minerals (except coal) and natural gas, without additional fee, that is to say:—

For any area not over 250 acres						an annual fee of £		100.
For any area over	250 acres	but not over	500 acres	do.	do.	do.	£	160.
Do.	do.	500	do.	do.	1,000	do.	£	200.
Do.	do.	1,000	do.	do.	2,000	do.	£	300.
Do.	do.	2,000	do.	do.	3,000	do.	£	400.
Do.	do.	3,000	do.	do.	5,000	do.	£	500.
Do.	do.	5,000	do.	do.	7,000	do.	£	640.
Do.	do.	7,000	do.	do.	10,000	do.	£	800.
Do.	do.	10,000	do.	do.	14,000	do.	£	1,100.
Do.	do.	14,000	do.	do.	20,000	do.	£	1,400.
Do.	do.	20,000	do.	do.	30,000	do.	£	1,800.
Do.	do.	30,000	do.	do.	50,000	do.	£	2,000.
Do.	do.	50,000	do.	do.	100,000	do.	£	2,500.

For a Prospecting Licence in respect of other minerals, a fee at the rate of 1/- per acre of the land included in the license shall be paid.

All such fees shall be payable in advance.

The holder of a Prospecting License is entitled to enter upon the land named in the license for such period as the Governor may deem desirable, which period shall not exceed two years with exclusive power to search in any part of it for the product or products named, to set up works, sink wells and export the produce subject, however, to the payment of such rates and duties as may be imposed by law upon such produce. If necessary, and provided the Governor considers the licensee has carried out the terms of his contract, the license may be extended for a period not exceeding a further two years. At the end or sooner determination of the period of the Prospecting License a Mining Lease may be granted over so much of the land held under License as the Governor may consider necessary for the purpose of erection of works, buildings, &c., for the continuation of the operations, at an annual rent to be agreed upon, and the licensee also has the privilege of leasing the crude oil or minerals underlying or upon such portion of the lands which has been held under the license as the licensee may select for a term of 21 years; this period may be extended, subject to such payment by way of rent or royalty as the Governor may approve. The lands held under Mining Lease must be first surveyed and all expenses of surveys and fees of grant or registration must be paid by the applicant together with a fee of £5 for expenses in connection with the lease.

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The Governor in Executive Council is empowered to make regulations for all matters necessary for regulating the administration of the Bank and carrying out the provisions of the Ordinance.

No. 14. The Mortgages Extension (Continuance) Ordinance provides that the moratorium declared by Ordinance 1-1922 shall continue until the 31st March, 1925, and then expire.

No. 18. The Cinematograph (Amendment) Ordinance provides that posters advertising cinematograph films shall be subject to the same censorship as films.

No. 19. The Patents Ordinance, provides for the local protection of patents granted in the United Kingdom on registration in the Colony.

No. 23. The Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Ordinance, 1924, extends the definition of wireless telegraphy to include wireless telephony.

EDUCATION.

79. At the close of the year under review there were 292 Elementary and Intermediate Schools in the Colony, 48 being Government and 244 Assisted Schools. There were 256 schools in Trinidad and 36 in Tobago. Of the 244 Assisted Schools, 95 were Roman Catholic, 56 Church of England, 69 Canadian Presbyterian Mission, 12 Wesleyan, 11 Moravian and 1 Baptist. There were 2 Government and 4 Assisted Intermediate Schools.

80. The number of pupils on the roll in December, 1924, was 56,985 of whom 31,784 were boys and 25,111 were girls. The average daily attendance was 35,012, or 61.4 per cent. of the number on roll. As compared with the previous year there is a decrease of 970 on the roll or 1.6 per cent., and of 637 in average attendance or 1.8 per cent. There was an increase in average attendance of .01 per cent. in Government Schools and a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in Assisted Schools. The number of teachers and pupil teachers employed was 1,599 (1,634 in 1923).

81. The total expenditure on education during the year 1924, deducting the amount received in school and examination fees was £112,899 9s. 0d. as compared with £128,591 11s. 6d. in 1923. 123 candidates took the competitive examination for College Exhibitions and 35 the examination for Handicraft Exhibitions awarded by the Board of Education. 9 College and 2 Handicraft Exhibitioners were nominated, bringing up to 52 the total number of exhibitioners being educated in Secondary Schools. In December, 1924 there were 36 Teaching Bursars at the Queen's Royal College and Affiliated Schools, 9 students at the Assisted Hostels at Government expense and 4 students at the Government Training College. There were 321 candidates at the examination for Teachers' Certificates, of whom 153 passed their prescribed examinations. 29 of the candidates were from the Training Colleges and Training Hostels, of whom 19 passed.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

82. The following Colleges afford facilities for the higher education of boys :—The Queen's Royal College and its affiliated institutions, the St. Mary's College in Port-of-Spain, and the Naparima College in San Fernando. The St. Joseph Convent and the Bishop's High School in Port-of-Spain which are also affiliated to the Queen's Royal College, provide similar education for girls. The Education Board in 1924 agreed to the affiliation of a third school for girls, the Naparima Girls' High School, San Fernando, with effect from January, 1925. The number of pupils on roll at 31st December was :—

Queen's Royal College	...	...	209
St. Mary's College	...	...	408
Naparima College	...	...	107
St. Joseph's Convent School	...	...	421
Bishop's High School	...	...	93
Total	...	...	1,238

83. The Queen's Royal College and its affiliated Colleges are examined annually in July. The Middle Forms are examined by the Cambridge University Examinations Syndicate. The Upper Sixth Form is examined by the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, being entered for the Higher Certificate Examination while the pupils of the Lower Sixth and Fifth Forms are entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations, taking the School Certificate and the Junior Examinations respectively.

84. Three hundred and five pupils of the Middle Forms of the Queen's Royal College and affiliated Schools sat for the examination conducted by the Cambridge University Examinations Syndicate in July, 1924. Two hundred and thirty pupils sat for the School Certificate and Junior Local Examinations, while thirty-one candidates sat for the Higher Certificate Examinations of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board. One hundred and fifty-eight candidates passed the School Certificate and Junior Local Examinations, forty-five gaining Honours, while forty-seven distinctions in various subjects were gained. Twenty Higher Certificates were gained. Two Scholarships, not exceeding in value £700 each, tenable at a University in the British Empire, or other Scientific or Technical Institutions to be approved by the Education Board, were awarded on the result of the Higher Certificate Examination. One of these Scholarships was awarded on the subjects of Group IV (Science) for the purpose of enabling the successful candidate to study the Science of Agriculture. Four "House Scholarships" of the annual value of £15 each were awarded on the results of the Cambridge Junior Local Examination.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

85. The Technical Classes of the Board of Industrial Training shewed another year of continued growth during 1924, when the weekly average attendance rose to 222 with a total number of 8,894 hours as against an average of 159 attendances and a total number of 6,159 hours in 1923. There were 164 students in attendance distributed among the following classes:—

Workshop Arithmetic	...	...	95
Workshop Drawing	...	...	93
Workshop Practice	...	...	32
Mechanics	...	...	77
Mathematics	...	...	52
Typography	...	...	32
Building Construction	...	...	26
Bookbinding	...	...	17

Four grades—Preliminary, Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced—are necessary in Workshop Arithmetic and Drawing, while the other subjects are organised in two or three grades as required. The total expenditure on the classes for the year, including instructors' fees, equipment, lighting, &c., was £433 14s. 1d., which works out at just over 11½d. for each hour of instruction. The students have continued to show interest and keenness in their work and it has been arranged that they shall be examined intermediately and finally by the City and Guilds of London Institute. Under the new scheme there will be, therefore, three classes of craftsmen—

- (1) Those who have served an apprenticeship but have passed no test of theoretical knowledge ;
- (2) those who have completed their five years' training and have passed the Intermediate Examination, showing they have *some* knowledge as well as practical ability ;
- (3) those with training and who possess the certificate of the London City and Guilds' Institute having passed an examination equivalent to that of the English apprentice.

86. The Board is also entrusted with the administration of an institution for the Blind towards which a grant of £250 was made by the Government, and voluntary public subscriptions to the amount of £277 10s. 0½d. were collected during the year. The Government also grants £150 for special work in the education and maintenance of destitute blind children. Instruction is given in Braille Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, while men are taught Basket-making and Chair-caning and women Knitting and Sewing. This institution deals with some forty to fifty blind people and is a residential one for the

education, maintenance and training of blind children and a day institution for the purposes of an adult school and affording a mid-day meal and a small wage for work done to the blind of Port-of-Spain and its environs who are no longer children. It is at present the only blind institution in the British West Indies and during the year celebrated its tenth anniversary.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

(a)—RAILWAYS.

87. The Trinidad Government Railway now consists (1) of the Port-of-Spain-Arima-Sangre Grande line running 29 miles along the southern foot of the northern range of hills to within eight miles of the eastern coast: (2) the San Fernando-Siparia line, 44 miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-Arima-Sangre Grande line at St. Joseph ($6\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Port-of-Spain) and following roughly the western coast of the Colony, total distance Port-of-Spain to Siparia, 51 miles: (3) the Caparo Valley line, $28\frac{1}{2}$ miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-San Fernando-Siparia line at Jerningham Junction ($14\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Port-of-Spain), and running in a generally south-eastern direction, total distance from Port-of-Spain 43 miles: (4) the Guaracara line, 10 miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-San Fernando-Siparia line at Marabella Junction (33 miles from Port-of-Spain) and running in an easterly direction to Princes Town, total distance from Port-of-Spain, 43 miles, and (5) the Ciperó Tramway, another route from Corinth, 38 miles from Port-of-Spain to Princes Town, length with branches, 13 miles. The line is double line between Port-of-Spain and St. Joseph Station ($6\frac{1}{4}$ miles), the remainder of the line is single line. The total length of the system is 123 miles, of which about 8 miles are leased to other interests. The Railway is of standard ($4'-8\frac{1}{2}"$) gauge.

88. The railways afford communication for passengers over all lines three times a day, and goods trains generally, once a day. A suburban service of trains is run between Port-of-Spain and Arima, giving a service of 13 trains daily each way.

89. In connection with the railway, a steamer makes two trips a week between Port-of-Spain, San Fernando and La Brea (near the celebrated Pitch Lake), the Oilfields, Cedros, and to the south-western point of the Island at Icacos, stopping at eight intermediate places along the coast, and carrying passengers and goods. Another steamer makes five trips a week each way between Port-of-Spain and the Bocas entrance to the Gulf, including the Islands to the West of Port-of-Spain.

90. The railway stations are in telegraphic or telephonic communication one with the other on all parts of the system, and there is a telephone line south-west of San Fernando along the steamer route, giving a total length of 127 miles of telegraph and about 116 miles of telephone lines. There is also a service telephone along the Cipero Section between San Fernando and Princes Town.

(b)-- CABLE.

91. Communication by cable with the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and other parts of the world is maintained by the Pacific Cable Board and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

92. The cable operated by the Pacific Cable Board was opened to traffic from this Colony on the 1st December. The cable after leaving Trinidad touches at Barbados and runs from thence to Turks Island. There is also a branch line from Barbados to Georgetown, British Guiana.

93. Connection north of Turks Island to North America and Europe is made through the cables of the Direct West India Cable and the Halifax-Bermuda cable, touching at Bermuda and Halifax. At Halifax cablegrams for Europe are transferred to the Imperial and Commercial cables, and Canadian and United States traffic to the C.P.R. Telegraphs which connects with the Commercial Cable Company and the Postal Telegraph Company.

94. Communication between Barbados and the islands of Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and St. Kitts is maintained by means of wireless stations. A station is also under construction at Montserrat. These stations are equipped with a continuous wave for point to point working, and with interrupted continuous wave for working ship stations on 600 metres. Montserrat will have spark equipment only for communicating with the other islands of the Leeward Group.

95. The West India and Panama Telegraph Company, until recently the only Company operating in the Colony, has a duplicate cable system. Both cables on leaving Trinidad touch at Grenada where they separate until they meet again at St. Lucia, Porto Rico, Jamaica and terminate at Santiago, Cuba, where the Company hand over their traffic to the Cuba Submarine Company who in turn at Havana hand over to the Western Union Telegraph Company which has a duplicate cable system to New York.

96. The shorter and more direct cable between Trinidad and Santiago, Cuba, touches at the Island of St. Croix (with a branch line to St. Thomas).

97. The other cable on leaving Grenada serves St. Vincent, (with a branch duplicate line to Barbados) St. Lucia, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Thomas and meets its sister cable at Porto Rico and Jamaica, and they both terminate at Santiago, Cuba.

98. The Company's cables connect with the French Cable Company's line at Guadeloupe and Porto Rico, which proceeds to New York *via* Hayti. In addition their lines connect with the Direct West Indian Cable Company's (called the all-British route) Line at Jamaica, which proceeds from there to Bermuda, Halifax and the United Kingdom.

99. Four Wireless stations were in operation during 1924, namely, stations at Port-of-Spain, North Post, Tobago and Pointe Baleine. The North Post Station dealt exclusively with ship and Tobago traffic, while communication with British Guiana, St. Martin and Venezuela was carried out by Port-of-Spain. The Pointe Baleine Station, situated on the island of Gasparee and operated by the Pointe Baleine Hotel is of small power and serves the purpose of linking the Gulf Islands with Port-of-Spain.

(c)— STEAMSHIP.

100. The following steamship lines call regularly at Trinidad:—

Harrison Line, Leyland Line, Royal Netherlands West India Mail, Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, La Veloce (Navigazione Italiana), Transatlantica Italiana, Horn Line, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Canadian Pacific, Trinidad Line (Furness Withy & Co., Ltd.), Prince Line, Lamport and Holt, Colombian Steamship Line, Aluminum Line, Cia. Anónima Venezolana de Navegacion and the Nourse Line (from India). Mails are regularly forwarded and received by these steamers. In addition a number of Steamers call to load cargoes of petroleum, or to take in coal or oil fuel for bunker purposes.

101. There is a weekly Coastal Steamship Service between Trinidad and Tobago by the Steamer *Belize*, going every alternate week by the northern and southern routes. This service was previously run by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, but in March, 1923, the Government purchased the s.s. *Belize*, and is running the service through local Agents.

102. The itinerary is as follows :—

Northern Route.—Leaves Port-of-Spain going north on Monday at 9 p.m., and calling at the following shipping places in Trinidad, viz.: Blanchisseuse, Matelot, Grande Rivière, and Toco, arriving at Scarborough, Tobago, on Tuesday afternoon; thence goes East around Tobago calling at the following shipping places, viz., Hillsborough, Pembroke, Roxborough, King's Bay, Speyside, Man-o'-War Bay, Parlatuvier, Castara, Plymouth, Mt. Irvine * and Milford,* arriving at Scarborough on Thursday, leaving the same day at 8 p.m. for Trinidad calling at Toco and thence to Port-of-Spain direct, arriving on Friday morning.

* The steamer calls at Mt. Irvine and Milford once a month alternately.

Southern Route.—Leaves Port-of-Spain going south on Monday at 6 p.m., calling at the following shipping places in Trinidad, viz.: Moruga, Guayaguayare, St. Margaret's, St. Ann's and St. Joseph, thence direct to Scarborough, Tobago, arriving there on Thursday morning and leaves at noon for Toco, Grande Rivière, Matelot and Blanchisseuse, arriving at Port-of-Spain on Friday morning.

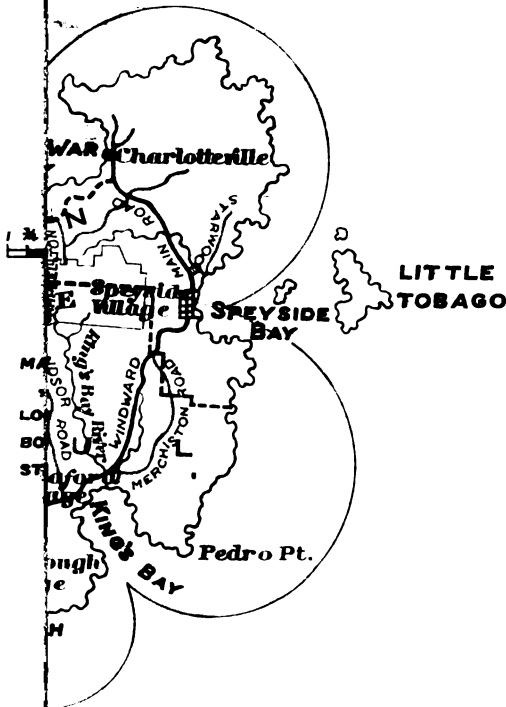
(d)—ROADS.

103. The roads of the Colony are divided into main and local roads. The former and 50 per cent. of the latter are under the control of the Director of Public Works. The other local roads are under Local Road Boards. The main roads with a total mileage of 1,087·04 miles—made up of 555·58 miles metal, 298·64 miles gravel or burnt clay, 80·90 miles natural soil cart roads, and 151·92 miles bridle road—were maintained at a cost of £119,394 4s. 7½d. or at an average rate of £109·83 per mile; and the local roads, in districts where there are no Local Road Boards, comprising 662·02 miles—made up of 34·72 miles metal, 173·87 miles gravel or burnt clay and 196·13 miles natural soil cart road and 258·20 miles bridle road—at a cost of £26,867 14s. 0½d. or at an average rate of £40·52 per mile. In addition there are several miles of Crown Traces in charge of the Wardens who are provided with funds to maintain them merely as rights of way.

104. The road system is being extended gradually but the war interfered seriously with the progress of the work. In 1910 a road scheme to cost £588,663 increased in 1917 to £592,829 was adopted and it provided for completion of the

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GILES OR
MELVILLE IS.



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St. John's

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SURVEY DEPT
1925

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works estimated for within 10 years from 1st April, 1911. The outbreak of war in 1914 however completely upset the finance of the scheme owing to the difficulty of raising the loan which was necessary to cover a proportion of the cost. According to the arranged programme £530,000 should have been expended by 1919, but only a sum of £298,000 was available. This scheme has since been revised and extended. Under the revised scheme the expenditure provided for amounts to £963,644, but of this only £160,000 was recommended to be expended immediately from Loan funds. The Loan allocation has been exhausted and funds from General Revenue are not now available. In consequence work under the road scheme is temporarily at a standstill.

(e) POSTAL.

105. There is a General Post Office at Port-of-Spain, with branch offices at San Fernando and Tobago and 109 out offices throughout the Colony.

106. The rates of postage are as follows, per 1 oz. letter:—

Within the Colony	...	...	1½d.
To United Kingdom, British Possessions			
and United States	...	...	2d.
To other places for 1st oz. 3d. and for each additional ounce 1½d.			

107. The Government Savings Bank is a branch of the Post Office Department and has its Head Office in Port-of-Spain. In addition Savings Bank facilities are provided at 31 Post Offices throughout the Colony. The number of depositors at the end of 1924 totalled 28,309 with deposits amounting to £364,360 standing to their credit:

108. Maps of Trinidad and Tobago are attached.

T. A. V. BEST,
Colonial Secretary.

TRINIDAD,
21st May, 1925.



COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1234	Mauritius	1923
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	State of Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Wei-hai-wei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	State of Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	"
1252	Ashanti	1923-1924
1253	Cyprus	1924
1254	Zanzibar	"
1255	Gold Coast	1923-1924
1256	Federated Malay States	1924
1257	Nyasaland	"
1258	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
1259	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1261.

SWAZILAND.

REPORT FOR 1924.

For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1180 and 1211 (Price 6d. each).



LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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1925.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1261.

SWAZILAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1924.*

I.—Situation and Area.

Swaziland lies between the eastern slopes of the Drakensberg Mountains, which form the eastern border of the Transvaal, and the low-lying lands of northern Zululand and Portuguese East Africa.

It is bounded on the north, west and south by the Transvaal, and on the east by the Portuguese Territory and Tongaland, now part of the Natal Province, and is about the size of Wales, its area being 6,678 square miles. A little more than one-third of the Territory is native area and the remainder is owned by Europeans.

DESCRIPTION.

The Territory is divided geographically into three longitudinal regions of roughly equal breadth, running from north to south, and known locally as the high, middle, and low or bush veld. The high veld portion adjoining the eastern Transvaal consists of mountains, part of the Drakensberg Range. These mountains rise in parts to an altitude of over 5,000 feet.

The middle veld is about 2,000 feet lower, while the bush veld, bounded on the east by the Ubombo Mountains, has a height of from 300 to 1,000 feet, rising on the Ubombo Mountains to 1,500 feet.

II.—History.

The Swazis are akin to the Zulu and other tribes of the south-eastern littoral. Up to about 100 years ago they occupied the country just north of the Pongolo River, but a hostile chief in their vicinity forced them farther north and, under their Chief Sobhuza, they then occupied the territory now known as Swaziland. This Chief, who died in 1839, was succeeded by Mswazi II. The further order of succession has been Ludonga, Mbandini and Bhunu, whose son, Sobhuza II, was installed as Paramount Chief in 1921, after a long minority, during which his grandmother, Labotsibeni, acted as Regent.

* In this Report the Financial Statements, which are for the year ended 31st March, 1925, are preliminary and not completely audited. All other details are for the calendar year 1924.

The many concessions granted by Mbandini necessitated some form of European control, notwithstanding that the independence of the Swazis had been guaranteed in the Conventions of 1881 and 1884, entered into between the Government of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria and the Government of the late South African Republic. In 1890, soon after the death of Mbandini, a Provisional Government was established representative of the Swazis, the British and the South African Republic Governments. In 1894, under a Convention between the British and the South African Republic Governments, the latter was given powers of protection and administration, without incorporation, and Swaziland continued to be governed under this form of control until the outbreak of the Boer War in 1899.

In 1902, after the conclusion of hostilities in the Transvaal, a Special Commissioner took charge, and, under an Order in Council in 1903, the Governor of the Transvaal administered the Territory, through the Special Commissioner, until the year 1907, when, under an Order in Council (1906), the High Commissioner assumed control and established the present form of administration. Previously to this, steps had been taken for the settlement of the concessions question by the definition of the boundaries of the land concessions and their partition between the concessionaires and the natives. The boundaries of the mineral concessions were also defined and all monopoly concessions were expropriated. Title to property is therefore now clear.

In 1912, a Special Court was established with an Advocate of the Provincial Division of the Transvaal as President. The other members of the Court consist of the Resident Commissioner, the Deputy Resident Commissioner, and the Assistant Commissioners of the various districts. The Court holds sessions twice a year. All cases are dealt with by three members sitting without a jury. The Court has jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases.

An elected Advisory Council, representative of the Europeans, was established in 1921, to advise the Administration on purely European affairs.

III.—General Events of the Year.

During the year there were 148 European emigrants and 200 immigrants, the latter being permanent settlers.

According to the census held on the 3rd May, 1921, the European population was 1,239 males, 996 females, total 2,235 persons, representing an increase of 103·6 per cent. since the 1911 census. The native Bantu population was 52,761 males, 57,534 females, total 110,295 persons, representing an increase of 5·34 per cent. since the 1911 census. Of this total 5,990

natives were recorded as being absent at labour centres outside Swaziland. Coloured and other races other than Bantu had increased from 143 to 308 over the same period.

The general health of the Territory has been fairly good. There was considerable malaria during the year and a quantity of quinine was distributed. Cases of dysentery and enteric were rare. Syphilis continues to be a troublesome disease amongst the native population. Every effort is being made to deal with it. An extra building has been added to the hospital for treating cases of this disease. Only a few cases of influenza—of a mild type—occurred during the year. Cases admitted at the hospital numbered 178; there were 6 deaths. The number of out-patients treated was 5,008. Considering the size of the native population the medical services are inadequate to requirements. The Swazis, however, are very conservative and generally prefer their own native doctors. Free treatment is taken advantage of to some extent, but a private medical practitioner could not make a living from native practice. Infant mortality is large owing principally to the methods of feeding. An extension of the medical service is desirable, especially in the provision of further free dispensaries in the districts, but with this there should also be provided more general teaching for the rising generation. Further provision under these heads is, however, at present beyond the resources of the Administration and the Mission Societies operating in the Territory.

Natives desiring to enter into contracts as labourers on mines in the Union continued to take advantage of the deferred pay system, the sum of £11,893 being paid out as compared with £16,137 during 1923. The number of passes issued was 5,741 to recruited labourers and 5,326 to those desiring to travel outside the Territory.

IV.—Government Finance.

The total Revenue for the year amounted to £89,710, being £3,510 in excess of the Estimates, and the total Expenditure to £87,597, showing a decrease of £603 on the Estimates.

Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for the year amounted to £80,467 and £79,639 respectively, as compared with £80,156 and £85,682 respectively in 1923-1924.

The Extraordinary Revenue and Expenditure during the year amounted to £9,243 and £7,958 respectively.

Public Debt.—This amounted to £55,000 made up as follows :—

- (1) The Swaziland Consolidated Loan of £72,500 was reduced during 1923 by the repayment of a sum of £37,500. The Loan now amounts to the sum of

£35,000, bearing interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum and repayable, through the medium of a Sinking Fund, within 19 years from the 1st April, 1924.

- (2) The Swazi Nation Trust Fund, £20,000, bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

Assets and Liabilities.—On 31st March, 1925, liabilities exceeded assets by £24,951 11s. 10d.

V.—Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

TRADE.

During the year under review the volume of trade, except in grain, was very small. The native crops were fair. Sales of land were effected at fair prices.

No statistics of imports or exports are kept, as, by an agreement with the Government of the Union, Swaziland is treated, for Customs purposes, as a part of the Union. Payments due to Swaziland are assessed on a fixed proportion of the total Customs collection of the Union in each year. The amounts so received by Swaziland during the last three financial years were as follows :—

1922.	1923.	1924.
£10,172	£12,788	£13,500

The above amounts include collections in Swaziland during the last three financial years, in respect of spirits and beer manufactured in the Union, as follows :—

1922.	1923.	1924.
£1,156	£1,284	£1,024

The imports consist principally of flour, sugar, groceries, hardware, clothing, boots, spirits, oils, farming implements, mining machinery, tools and general kaffir truck. Most of these goods are imported from wholesale dealers in the Union.

The following is a summary of the principal articles exported from Swaziland during the last three years :—

	Quantities in lb.			Value.		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Cassiterite Tin	400,448	337,713	539,907	£16,420	£29,240	£59,082
Cotton (unginned)	142,148	171,000	373,370	2,013	3,056	6,221
Cotton (ginned)	—	73,800	72,850	—	5,175	3,640
Cotton (seed) ..	—	—	43,144	—	—	445
Hides	37,590	37,000	33,644	1,147	1,054	1,298
Slaughter Oxen	2,884,250	3,000,000	4,478,400	41,432	45,000	64,688
Bullion	427 oz.	92·78 oz.	376 oz.	1,926	417	1,693
Specie	—	—	—	8,214	2,090	2,164

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The currency is British coin and coins of the late South African Republic, which are of similar denominations to the British. All such British and Transvaal coins are legal tender—in the case of gold coins, for payment of any amount; in the case of silver coins, for payment of an amount not exceeding forty shillings; and in the case of bronze coins, for payment of an amount not exceeding one shilling.

The National Bank of South Africa, Limited, has branches at Mbabane and Hlatikulu. The amount on deposit at 31st March, 1925, at the Mbabane branch was £37,133 as compared with £21,023 in 1924.

The Bank also conducts savings bank business. The number of savings bank depositors at 31st March, 1925, at the Mbabane branch was 90, with a total credit of £827 as compared with 110 and £2,311 for the previous year.

At the various post offices in the Territory Post Office Savings Bank business is conducted. At the 31st March, 1925, the depositors numbered 248, with a total credit of £1,553 as compared with 200 and £1,847 for the previous year.

At the Post Office Savings Bank interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was allowed on ordinary accounts and 4 per cent. on certificate accounts. Interest was allowed at 4 per cent. for 12 months and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for six months on fixed deposits at the savings bank of the National Bank.

AGRICULTURE.

The principal crops are maize, kafir corn, tobacco, cotton and beans.

The maize crop was above the average. The average price was 21s. a bag of 200 lb. A very good class of maize is being produced, chiefly the "Hickory King" dent variety, and as a result of the advice of experts being followed the maize is of a very high standard. Growers in the bushveld are trying white flint varieties owing to these varieties requiring a shorter season. Crops of dent varieties are often a failure in the low country owing to insufficient rain at the beginning of the season.

The crop of kafir corn was quite up to the average. The tobacco crop was also up to the average. The returns show that 278,500 lb. of tobacco were grown.

The cotton crop was greatly increased, approximately 8,000 acres were under this crop at the end of the year. The amount handled in Durban on behalf of Swaziland growers was approximately 100,000 lb. lint, the average price realized being 15 pence per lb. This is the crop reaped from that sown in 1923.

Mr. Milligan, who was deputed by the British Empire Cotton Growing Corporation to report on the prospects of South Africa as a cotton-producing country, visited Swaziland in July. He was very much impressed with the prospects in Swaziland.

The principal varieties of cotton grown are "Griffin," "Watts Long Staple," "Improved Bancroft," and "Zululand Hybrid." The main crop is "Griffin," the original seed having been imported by the Government in 1921. This variety with proper selection and acclimatization is giving excellent returns. "Improved Bancroft" is also very largely grown as it appears more resistant to attacks of the Jassid insect on account of the hairy condition of the leaves. Of the crop, 83 per cent. was grade $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. and over.

Many swarms of flying locusts invaded the country from the Union, and it was expected that breeding on a large scale would occur, but for some unaccountable reason this did not happen and hatchings were reported from two parts only. These young swarms were destroyed. Supplies of poison and spray pumps to deal with the young locusts are distributed throughout the Territory.

All classes of sub-tropical fruits do well in the lower parts of the Territory. The Government horticulturist of the Transvaal reported very favourably on the prospects of fruit-growing, and he was particularly impressed with the suitability of the climate and soil for citrus fruits and mangoes.

The Territory is well watered, and the numerous large rivers provide an inexhaustible supply of water and constitute an immensely valuable asset for the development of power and for the purposes of irrigation. It is favourably situated midway between the coast and the principal markets of the Transvaal, but, until a railway is built and funds are available for making good roads, the development of the Territory is bound to be retarded.

STOCK.

Swaziland, especially in the bush veld, is one of the finest cattle-raising centres in South Africa.

It is reported by old residents that in the very early days, before the invasion of rinderpest in 1894, the country teemed with cattle.

Rinderpest in 1894 and 1897 and East Coast Fever in 1902 caused great mortality, and at the census held in 1911 there were only 57,601 cattle in the Territory. Since 1911 the campaign against East Coast Fever has been most successful,

and cattle have increased rapidly. Dipping is compulsory everywhere, and Europeans and natives alike have realized its value. The census held during the year 1921 showed that the Europeans owned 63,749 cattle, while those in the possession of natives numbered 146,542. It is estimated that at the present time there are approximately 250,000 head of cattle in the Territory.

The introduction by the ranchers and farmers in Swaziland of pure-bred bulls of the principal breeds is rapidly improving the class of cattle in the Territory, and in spite of the unsatisfactory state of the meat market very fair prices were obtained during the year for slaughter cattle exported. In all, 4,976 head were exported through Komati Poort, as against 5,010 for 1923. Owing to an outbreak of East Coast Fever in the Hlatikulu district the port of exit at Mahamba was closed and no cattle were exported from the Hlatikulu district; this accounts for the number exported being reduced. It is also due to the Union Government restricting the importation to cattle weighing 800 lb. live weight. The campaign against East Coast Fever has again occupied most of the time of the Veterinary Department. Four new outbreaks of this disease occurred during the year and quarantine was removed from four previously infected areas. The new outbreaks adjoin old infected areas and are ascribed to the excessive rains which prevented the dipping operations being properly carried out.

The following table shows the number of outbreaks of East Coast Fever, herds infected, and deaths during the last six years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Infected Areas.</i>		<i>New Herds Infected.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>	
1919	...	3	...	86	...	61
1920	...	1	...	29	...	10
1921	...	4	...	125	...	361
1922	...	6	...	63	...	708
1923	...	9	...	33	...	253
1924	...	7	...	20	...	274

At the end of the year there were 70 Government dipping tanks, and 56 private tanks, 8 of which are under Government control.

Quarter Evil is still prevalent; 17,210 doses of vaccine were issued for the inoculation of cattle, chiefly in the Hlatikulu district.

One outbreak of Anthrax occurred in the Ubombo district and 28 head of cattle died. All the cattle in contact were inoculated and there have been no further cases.

All the sheep and goats in those districts where sheep from the Union are sent for winter grazing were dipped twice under European supervision. Very little scab exists in the Territory.

Horse sickness was very prevalent.

The Annual Agricultural Shows were held at Hlatikulu and Bremersdorp, the Union Government kindly providing the judges.

LAND.

Title to land in Swaziland is freehold, subject to the mineral rights which are in some cases owned by concessionaires and in others by the Crown.

During the year, 5,656 morgen of Crown Lands were sold at an average price of 6s. 10d. per morgen for unencumbered land. The area sold included 3,026 morgen of Crown Land encumbered by grazing servitudes, for which £947 was realized.

Unencumbered Crown Land sold in the Territory is subject, before title is issued, to beneficial occupation, or, in the low veld areas, to stocking with breeding cattle. The purchase price is payable in ten equal yearly instalments, outstanding balances bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

Encumbered Crown Land, that is land subject to prior-dated servitudes of grazing or land rights, is sold to the registered holder of the servitude, and the purchase price is payable in four equal yearly instalments; there is no condition of beneficial occupation. All land is sold subject to existing mineral servitudes. (A morgen equals 2'11654 English acres.)

Private land transactions during the year were few. Prices for freehold land varied between 20s. and 40s. per morgen.

MINING.

Mining is conducted under mineral concessions granted by the late King Mbandini, and under the Crown Minerals Order in Council. No new deposits were discovered during the year.

The cassiterite produced during the year amounted to 241.03 tons (metallic content 70 per cent.) valued at £59,082, and gold amounted to 376.13 oz. valued at about £1,693, as compared with 150.76 tons of cassiterite and 92.78 oz. of gold produced in 1923.

Gold mining was carried on for some years at the Pigg's Peak and other mines, but, owing to the increased cost of this class of mining, all work has ceased. The Crown owns a few

mineral areas, and legal provision has been made for the exploitation of these by the public in the event of payable minerals being discovered. Considerable quantities of gold have been recovered from the Forbes Reef and Pigg's Peak mines in the past and there appears to be no reason why further exploitation of this known mineralized area should not take place at an early date in the future. Large deposits of coal exist in the bush veld, but beyond prospecting operations nothing has been done to exploit them.

Arrangements are in progress whereby it is hoped to facilitate prospecting and mining on concessions generally, and in 1923 the Swaziland Mineral Development Commission was appointed. The report of the Commission is still under consideration.

VI.—Legislation.

The most important Proclamations issued during the year were :—

The Swaziland Consolidated Loan (Amendment) Proclamation No. 6 of 1924.

Contracts and Debts of Natives—Proclamation No. 14 of 1924.

The Grass Burning Proclamation No. 21 of 1924.

The Swaziland Locust Destruction Proclamation No. 44 of 1924.

VII.—Education.

Government primary schools for European children have been established in the Territory, and, at Mbabane, one for primary and secondary education.

The average attendance at these schools during the last three years was as follows :—

1922	...	...	...	...	311
1923	...	...	...	...	314
1924	...	...	...	...	329

At Zombode, the kraal of the Chief Regent, there is a school for natives. The average attendance at this school during the last three years was as follows :—

1922	...	...	...	...	93
1923	...	...	...	...	100
1924	...	...	...	...	92

Archdeacon Watts, M.A., the founder of the school for Europeans at Mbabane, also opened a school for coloured children at Mpolonjeni, where the average attendance during the last three years was as follows :—

1922	...	...	...	...	65
1923	...	...	...	...	58
1924	...	...	...	...	60

This school receives a Government grant, as well as another school for coloured children at the Florence Mission in the Hlatikulu district, the average attendance at which was 28.

Boarding or transport bursaries at the rate of 4s. per child per week are paid by the Government for all European pupils whose parents are in poor circumstances and who reside three miles or more from a school.

In addition to the above, the various missions conduct schools and classes in connection with their mission work for natives. During the year the grant made to mission societies for this purpose was £1,000, the same as for 1923. The average attendance at these mission schools during the last three years was as follows :—

1922	...	...	...	...	2,329
1923	...	...	...	...	2,400
1924	...	...	...	...	2,532

A number of the more advanced native pupils, both boys and girls, are sent out every year to be trained in the Union, at Lovedale, Tiger Kloof and other Institutes. The cost of tuition and board for these pupils, who number about 30, is paid from the Swazi National Fund, which was created, with the concurrence of the Swazi Chiefs, for the purposes of direct benefit to the natives. Each native taxpayer is required by law to pay 2s. per annum to the Fund, the expenditure from which is under the control of the Government. Apart from the regular schools, the natives receive religious instruction from 14 religious bodies carrying on work in Swaziland at about 186 different centres. The average attendance at these centres during the last three years was as follows :—

1922	...	...	...	...	7,143
1923	...	...	...	...	8,273
1924	...	...	...	...	9,743

VIII.—Climate.

The climate of the high veld has been likened to that of the south of France. The air is bracing and invigorating; light frosts are prevalent during the months of June and July. The mean temperature in winter is about 60° Fahr. The summer

is pleasantly warm, the mean temperature being about 75° Fahr. The rainfall is good, the average recorded at Mbabane over twenty-one years being 52.11 inches.

The middle veld is well watered by streams rising in the ranges on the west. Lying as it does some 2,000 feet below the mountains, the summer temperature of this area is warm and humid, but in winter is cool and refreshing. The mean temperature in summer is 80° Fahr. and in winter 65° Fahr. Frost at times occurs in the valley streams, but it is seldom found elsewhere. The rainfall recorded at Bremersdorp over twenty-two years averages 34.64 inches.

East of, and parallel to, the middle veld lies the bush veld, about 20 miles in width and running north and south through the whole area of the Territory. Many streams come down from the high veld and Drakensberg Range. These streams converge in the bush veld into five rivers. But for these this area is not well watered. The rainfall recorded at Natalia Ranch over ten years averages 25.36 inches.

The high veld is free from malaria, which is, however, prevalent in the low veld, and in a slight degree in the middle veld during some of the summer months. The malaria is not of a virulent type, and is easily avoided by taking the precautions ordinarily considered necessary in any sub-tropical country.

IX.—Communications.

ROADS.

There are good roads to Mbabane from Ermelo, 96 miles, Breyten, 85 miles, and Carolina, 82 miles, and there is a fairly good road from Mbabane to the Portuguese border, from which point to Delagoa Bay the road is very good. This route is largely made use of by motorists from the Transvaal during the winter months. The main port of entry for the southern portion of Swaziland is from Piet Retief, whence roads extend to Hlatikulu and Mankaiana. The main ports of entry for the northern portion of Swaziland are from Ermelo and Carolina, via Oshoek, Barberton (by bridle path), Hectorspruit, Komati Poort and Goba. The main roads have been improved by the introduction of piped culverts, but much remains to be done for the betterment of existing roads and improvements in communications generally, for which adequate funds have not been available.

POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

These services are now, by agreement, under the control of the Postmaster-General of the Union, but are paid for from Swaziland funds.

Post Offices.—Proclamation No. 29 of 1916 extended to Swaziland, with certain exceptions, the provisions of the Post Office Administration Act, 1911, of the Union of South Africa. At 31st March, 1925, there were 17 post offices in the Territory, and the following is a summary showing the number of offices in the different classes :—

Money Order, Savings Bank, Telegraph and

Telephone Offices	17
Postal Order Agencies... ..	4
Telegraph and Telephone Offices	7

Mail Services.—The following is a list of mail services in operation at 31st March, 1925 :—

<i>Route.</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Weekly.</i>	<i>Hours.</i>	<i>Conveyance.</i>
Carolina — Bremersdorp via Oshoek, Mbabane and Ezulweni	2	9½			Motor.
Ezulwini—Malkerns	2	4			Foot.
Bremersdorp—Stegi	1	30			Pack-donkey.
Bremersdorp—White Mbuluzi	2	6			Foot.
Stegi—Portuguese border ...	3	6			Foot.
Mbabane—Forbes Reef ...	2	4			Foot.
Barberton—Pigg's Peak ...	3	14			Foot.
Amsterdam—Sandhlana ...	1	6			Foot.
Piet Retief—Mankaiana ...	2	12			Foot.
Piet Retief—Hlatikulu ...	2	5			Motor.
Hlatikulu—Mooihoek	2	4			Foot.
Dwaleni—Berbice	2	4			Foot.
Mhlotsheni—Berbice	2	4			Foot.
Hluti—Mhlotsheni	2	9			Foot.

X.—Public Works.

No extensive public works were undertaken during the year. At three low veld drifts cement weirs were constructed.

B. NICHOLSON,

Government Secretary.

Mbabane, Swaziland,

21st July, 1925.

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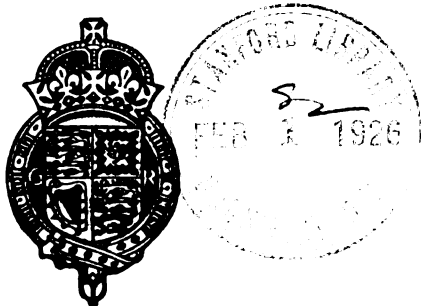
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REPORT FOR 1924.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS.

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA.)

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1924.*

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea, lying north-west of Jamaica, and approximately mid-way between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79° 83' and 81° 30' west longitude and the 19th and 20th parallels of north latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than 50 feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is 11 miles long by one and a quarter miles at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the Bluff, indicating that the low land around the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are no outlying cays or reefs. The 100 fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as Bartlett's Deep and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean, lies parallel with and south of the islands from 25 to 50 miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smaller islands. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 879 [Cd. 8172-5].

present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba who have remained domiciled in the Dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, acting with and under the direction of a locally elected "governor." To this body elected vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a Custos was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Victoria, chapter 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validating such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority, the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty acts, passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency. The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer and presides in the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace. The Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, twenty-two Justices named in a General Commission of the Peace, and twenty-seven elected Vestrymen representing the several districts. Five Justices and eight Vestrymen form a quorum. There is an appeal from the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica; and this Court has exclusive jurisdiction in matters of divorce.

General Observations.

While the after effects of the world war did not bear harshly on the people of the Dependency, and there has been a general readjustment, the cost of all locally produced food, except butchers' meat, and of most imported articles, is still much above the pre-war price of the necessities of daily life.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Government was enabled to avail itself early in 1924 of an offer by the Government Geologist of Jamaica, Dr. C. A. Matley, D.Sc., F.G.S., to make a short holiday visit to the Dependency for the purpose of studying its geology. Apart from its scientific interest, the geology of the islands was one of local speculation, for in the previous year an oil-pro prospector, impressed by the conformation of the land in its relation with the surrounding ocean floor,

had visited the islands and shown some activity in securing prospecting and boring rights over large areas of land. Dr. Matley describes the islands as being the only projecting peaks of the submarine Cayman Ridge which extends from the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba to the Misteriosa Bank in the direction of Honduras, with the exposed surfaces composed of a fairly hard semi-crystalline massive white limestone, a part of the white limestone formation of Jamaica, forming the central and more elevated portion of each island, and a younger calcarious formation, an outer and lower coastal platform, made up of reef-building corals, mollusca, coral sand and marl with a hard crust due to cementation by carbonate of lime.

There have been found for many years, and more recently in increasing quantities, on the shores of the islands or floating near by, a semi-liquid bituminous material supposed by some to be exudations from a submarine vent in the adjacent ocean and by others to be the slowly solidifying bunker cleanings of oil-burning ships traversing the surrounding Caribbean.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

There was great anxiety in the earlier months of 1924 as to the probable effects of the recently enforced immigration laws of the United States of America, but, as most of the emigration from these islands is temporary and largely of persons seeking employment in some capacity in connection with shipping, no hardship has followed. Emigration of others than the sea-faring population has increased to the Central American Republics, but the total is inconsiderable and the absence temporary. There is no immigration other than the return of natives after varying terms of absence.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The general health of the Dependency is good. The staple food of the people consists of cassava, yams, sweet potatoes and bread-fruit, all locally grown, and the ordinary wheat and corn products by way of imports. These constitute an almost entirely starchy diet which induces mild digestive disorders. There were no epidemics in 1924. Of the 55 deaths, 16 are returned as infants, 2 under 20 years, and 31 between 50 and 103, 21 as of persons over 70 years of age. There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 from cancer, all persons in early life.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 139 births in 1924 (26 per thousand) and 55 deaths (10 per thousand). The population is estimated at 5,365 or one hundred more than in 1923.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports for the year are below the average of totals for the previous five years. The value of imports (£51,416) is

reducible by £6,427 of spirits imported and immediately exported, making the normal imports £44,989, as compared with normal imports of £43,030 in 1923 and an average of normal imports £47,477 in the previous five years. The export figures are also reducible by the same amount (£6,427) to the normal of £9,890, which do not compare favourably with the average normal exports (£14,095) of the previous half decade.

Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure in recent years have been :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1918-19	5,220	4,837
1919-20	5,915	5,302
1920-21	11,187 (15 months)	10,612
1922	6,996	7,565
1923	6,611	6,823
Average of 5 years ..	6,738	6,603
1924	6,005	7,013

Customs (£4,703), of which £624 was derived from an export duty on liquors, and Post Office (£717) together contributed 90·2 per cent. of the total revenue.

The Expenditure may be summarised in Departments £3,086, Public Works £1,778, Education £1,500, and other services £649.

At the close of the year the Balance of Assets stood at £3,194 7s. 7d. There is no public debt.

Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry.

The values of the imports and exports are both below the averages of the previous five years. If, however, the values of spirituous liquors imported in 1923 and 1924 be eliminated, the imports for home consumption in 1924 show an increase of 4½ per cent. on those of 1923, but are much below the average for the previous half decade as influenced by imports in 1920 and 1921, years of inflated prices. The figures for exports, after deductions of values of spirits in transit, are below the average of previous five years.

There was an ordinary catch of 2,500 green turtle of merchantable size, but the price obtained (thirty shillings each) was not remunerative. The fishermen would appear to have been tied to a single market, Key West, in Florida, and strong efforts are now (1925) being made to secure other profitable outlets. The pursuit of the hawks-bill turtle for the tortoise-shell of commerce was more profitable, 3,419 lb. being secured and disposed of in Jamaica at an average price of £1 7s. 9d. per pound.

The export of thatch-palm rope was the lowest in ten years, yielding only £640, as compared with an average of £1,873 in

previous three years. The export of spirits, bonded for the purpose in 1923 and early 1924, which contributed to local trade and substantially to Customs Revenue, has stopped.

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Exports.</i>
		£		£
1918-19	.. ..	44,828	..	11,324
1919-20	.. ..	57,097	..	28,531
1920-21	.. ..	65,797 (15 months)		11,081
1922	.. ..	36,541	..	13,650
1923	.. ..	88,348	..	53,353
Average of 5 years	.. ..	55,890	..	23,145
1924	.. ..	51,416	..	16,317

The excess of imports over exports is a recurring feature in this annual tabulation, but the proportion of three to one in the amounts for 1924 shown above, and that of nearly five to one (£47,989 to £9,890) in the normal imports and exports for the year may be gauged as remarkable. The earnings of island vessels other than in the turtle fishery, the wages of long voyage seamen abroad, and the remittances of working men in the United States and the Central American republics to families or dependents within the Islands account in five years for the difference of so large a sum as £177,000 in the community of approximately 1,000 families. It may truly be said the Islands depend, for an equation of purchases and sales, more largely on an "export" of brains and energy than on the shipment to the outside world of the material articles of agriculture and handicraft.

Two cattle dips were continued in operation throughout the year with most satisfactory results in reducing the tick pest. The estimates for 1925 provide for a third in another district of Grand Cayman, and a fourth is proposed for 1926.

Shipping.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry, having on its register 50 small sailing vessels and 9 small steam and motor driven craft, with a total tonnage of 3,843 tons. Five vessels with a total tonnage of 157 were built in 1924.

Three small British steamships (total tonnage 742) called at the Islands in 1924. The following table shows the number and tonnage of sailing ships entered and cleared.

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>No. entered.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No. cleared.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
British	194	13,108	188	11,901
American	13	3,743	17	4,360
Honduranian ..	7	700	8	798
Panamanian ..	5	150	6	199
Totals	219	17,701	219	17,258

Banking Facilities.

There are no branches of banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks or branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are cashed in the shops and serve as remittances in payment for imports. The Post Office money order system is used to a small extent, the total business in 1924 being—orders issued £1,515 and orders paid £4,054.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 50 ; the deposits for the year have been £810 ; the withdrawals have amounted to £911, and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,705. A sum of £2,500 invested some years ago, with the Crown Agents as Trustees, more than covers this balance.

Legislation.

There were seven laws enacted in 1924 ; those of interest outside the Islands being No. 2, a law to provide that every person coming into or going from the Dependency shall be possessed of a valid passport or document in substitution therefor, and No. 5, a law to regulate the searching for and mining of crude oil in the Dependency.

Education.

Nine Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with nine private schools, had 1,033 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 855. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,484. There are no aided schools and no secondary schools. Some 50 pupils in the Government schools, by taking a pupil teacher course of four years and sitting to examinations by the Jamaica Education Department, have the benefit of a modified secondary training.

Meteorological.

The rainfall amounted to 71·50 inches in the Georgetown or western district of Grand Cayman. The heaviest precipitations were 16·24 inches in October and 14·39 inches in September. No rain fell in April. The other parts of Grand Cayman and the Islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman suffered by reason of light rainfalls. The air temperature ranges from 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the cooler months, and 10 degrees higher in summer. The nightly calms and the excessive dampness accentuate the heat of summer. No tropical cyclones visited the group in the year under review.

Communications.

All intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America and the Gulf ports of the United States is

maintained by trading schooners, some of which have motor engines as an auxiliary, and by the occasional larger vessel, steamship, cruiser or yacht. There is no community of interest between Grand Cayman and the other Islands of the Dependency, and communication with the latter is usually made through Jamaica. Roads suitable for vehicular traffic connect the more important settlements, and from these branch a system of bridle paths.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba; and all outgoing vessels to whatever port directed are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, but inter-communication is irregular. Boddentown, Georgetown and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. A telephone, privately owned, extends the length of Cayman Brac, and messages are sent and delivered for a nominal sum.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

Grand Cayman,
15th June, 1925.

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GRENADA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

I. Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Situated in the extreme south of the Caribbean Sea, Grenada is the nearest British island to the mainland of South America, with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago. It lies 90 miles north of Trinidad, and between the parallels of $12^{\circ} 30'$ and $11^{\circ} 58'$ North Latitude and $61^{\circ} 20'$ and $61^{\circ} 35'$ West Longitude. The Island is about 21 miles in length and about 12 miles in its greatest breadth. Its area is about 120 miles, but including Carriacou, an island to the north, the area of the Colony of Grenada is 133 square miles.

Grenada is mountainous and well watered by streams. Its coast line is rugged, especially on the western coast, and towards the south is deeply indented with bays. St. George's Harbour, landlocked and deep-watered, is one of the most beautiful in the West Indies.

The mountain spurs, clothed with forests to their summits, intersect the Island into numerous picturesque valleys. There are two small lakes, formed in extinct craters, one called the Grand Etang, being situated near the centre of the Island, 1,740 feet above sea-level, while the other, Lake Antoine, is near the sea on the eastern coast. A sanatorium is established near the former.

CLIMATE.

The climate can be classed as excellent, especially from December to May when it is delightful. The trade winds are steadily prevalent during this period, but occasionally fail in the autumn months, which are somewhat damp and hot.

The range of temperature is small and tends to make the climate equable and healthy. The thermometer seldom reaches 90° in the shade or drops below 70° , and these occasions occur so rarely that they are specially recorded in meteorological notes of the year. The highest temperature in 1924 was 89° on

several days, and the lowest 68° on 22nd February. The mean of maximum temperatures was 84° and the mean of minimum 74°. The rainfall varies according to altitude. In the lowlands of the south the annual amount is as low as 30 in.; in the mountainous centre it approaches 140 in. At St. George's, midway between the two, the rainfall in 1924 was 81·51 in. Over the past 30 years the average at St. George's has been 74·83 in.

HISTORICAL.

Grenada was discovered by Columbus on 15th August, 1498, but for more than 100 years after its discovery the Island was left in the undisturbed possession of the aboriginal inhabitants, who were of the Carib race. Early in the seventeenth century both English and French adventurers made efforts at occupation of the Island, and after being owned by French proprietors for some years it was annexed to France in 1674. In 1763 the Island was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris, but was recaptured by the French in 1779 and held by them for the next four years. In 1783, by the Treaty of Versailles, Grenada and the Grenadines were finally restored to Great Britain.

In 1795-6, influenced by the French Republic, a rebellion broke out, and the Lieutenant-Governor and 48 other British subjects were massacred by the rebels. The rising was suppressed in June, 1796, by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and the ring-leaders executed.

The later history of the Colony has been peaceful and uneventful, and Grenada has reached a high state of development.

II. General.

An interesting event falls to be recorded in the visit to the Colony on 10th March of the Acting Governor, Lieut.-Colonel Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., by U.S.N. flying boat (through the courtesy of Commodore Gherardi, U.S.N.), the first occasion on which one has landed in Grenada. The journey from and return to St. Lucia between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., with a visit to St. Vincent *en route*, and about 4½ hours spent on shore in the two islands, opens up possibilities of improved means of communication between the numerous small Colonies in the West Indies.

Owing to the recurrence of annual deficits, which had continued for several years, and had more than exhausted the Colony's surplus assets, readjustment of revenue and expenditure required to be undertaken. By retrenchment and amalgamation of offices whenever possible and cessation of various activities, Government expenditure was reduced to a point which made it possible to balance the budget by a slight addition to taxation.

An improvement in market prices of nutmegs and mace, which set in early in the year, continued in the succeeding months, and considerably relieved the financial stringency from

which the Colony was suffering. As compared with the previous year the value of the nutmeg crop increased from £55,017 to £95,321, or by £40,304, and that of mace from £18,641 to £24,874, or by £6,233. These two products, amounting together in value to £120,195, now account for 35 per cent. of the Colony's total value of exports. A decade ago the value of the products was £36,820. The advanced prices were not only maintained at the end of the year, but had increased, and are now at a figure far above anything ever experienced since the cultivation of spices in Grenada was started.

The Colony's main produce still remains cocoa, the exported crop of which in 1924 was recorded at the value of £201,547, being an increase of £45,664 over the value in the preceding year. This increase in total value is accounted for more by an increase in quantity rather than price, although it is true that the price per cwt., which was as low as 48s. at the beginning of the year, and continued so for the greater part of the year, suddenly rose to 65s. and upwards in December. The improvement in the price of cocoa, coupled with an early crop as the result of favourable weather conditions, has, nevertheless, been an additional factor in the decidedly improved trade conditions existing towards the end of the year.

These changes in the relative importance of cocoa and spices led the Government towards the end of the year to adjust the incidence of taxation on these crops. Cocoa for long had borne the brunt of the heavy export taxation which had been enforced as a war-time measure, and had been continued on account of the Colony's indebtedness.

The export duty on nutmegs and mace was placed on graduated scales, rising and falling according to market prices, and sufficient additional revenue was obtained to allow of export duty on cocoa being reduced by 6d. per cwt. A further adjustment and substantial reduction of taxation of cocoa and on other commodities is needed, but can only be accomplished when the deficit of the Colony is cleared off and the annual debt charges are reduced.

His Excellency Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G., arrived in the Colony on 26th July, and assumed the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands; the administration of the local Government since the departure of Sir George B. Haddon-Smith, K.C.M.G., on 31st October, 1923, having been undertaken by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Herbert Ferguson, C.B.E., and that of the Government of the Windward Islands by the Administrator of St. Lucia, Lieut.-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated population of the Colony at 31st December, 1924, was 68,957.

The density of the population was 518.47 per square mile.

The births numbered 2,197 and the deaths 1,156. The birth-rate was 31.86 and the death-rate 16.8 per 1,000.

The death-rate compares very favourably with that in other West Indian Colonies.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The death-rate per 100 births of infants dying under one year was 11.10. In the previous year the rate was 8.67. The rate in England and Wales for 1922 was 7.7.

Through the efforts of Lady James, an Infant Welfare Centre was established in St. George's towards the end of the year and a crèche has now been opened.

The principal causes of deaths, with the figures for the two previous years for comparison, are as under :—

	1924.	1923.	1922.
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	296	283	329
Malaria	108	74	83
Enteric Fever	22	23	24
Dysentery	34	33	83
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	52	41	37
Syphilis	16	10	15

WATER SUPPLIES.

All the parishes of the Island have a pipe-borne supply with the exception of St. David's, which is well provided with numerous protected springs and streams. In the Dependency of Carriacou the water is obtained from wells and from rain-water stored in cisterns.

III. Government Finance.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to £117,453, and the expenditure was £106,003, there being thus a surplus on the year amounting to £11,450. This is the first surplus recorded for several years.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £	Surplus. £	Deficit. £
1920	134,128	148,175	—	14,047
1921	97,932	136,969	—	39,037
1922	103,414	117,849	—	14,435
1923	103,823	113,095	—	9,272
1924	117,453	106,003	11,450	—

The Colony has no surplus assets. The total current deficit, which at 31st December, 1923, was £36,996, was reduced at the end of 1924 to £25,546.

The Public Debt of the Colony amounts to £223,670, against which there are Sinking Funds for redemption amounting to £79,826. There is, further, a sum of £41,338 unexpended of the Loan Issue of £100,000 raised in 1917.

BANKS.

The Colonial Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada are established in the Colony. The former has an agency in Grenville, but the branch at Carriacou, which was carried on for a few years, has now been discontinued.

Both banks transact savings bank business.

The authorised note circulation of the two banks was £25,000 and \$100,000 respectively. The actual amount in circulation was reported to be £30,000.

Silver is legal tender without limit. There is no gold in circulation.

SAVINGS BANK.

The Government Savings Bank continued its rate of interest at 4 per cent. There was an increase in the number of depositors from 1,685 to 1,702, and the amount at the credit of depositors increased from £20,120 to £25,430.

IV. Annual Progress of Trade.

The value of imports for the calendar year 1924 was £272,291, and of exports £350,806, the total trade being £623,097.

IMPORTS.

The principal articles imported were the following :—

	Value.	<i>Increase or decrease over 1923.</i>	
		<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
	£	£	£
Flour	40,014	5,272	—
Cotton piece-goods	36,858	—	36,578
Sugar, unrefined ...	13,914	4,727	—
Fish, dried, etc. ...	11,474	1,807	—
Oil, kerosene ...	8,512	1,126	—
Rice	7,954	329	—
Boots and shoes ...	6,068	2,421	—
Motor spirit ...	5,334	1,327	—
Cotton goods, other types	5,198	—	1,715
Lumber, undressed	4,991	2,325	—
Soap, common ...	4,806	—	1,227

The explanation of the striking decrease in cotton piece-goods in 1924 is that in 1923 the depleted stocks of importing firms were renewed, but on account of bad trade there were large quantities on hand at the beginning of 1924.

The following table shows the direction of trade for the years 1923 and 1924 :—

	1923.	Percentage	1924.	Percentage
	£	of total.	£	of total.
United Kingdom	128,947	45·3	83,600	30·7
United States of America ...	39,276	13·8	56,696	20·8
Canada ...	58,571	20·6	69,658	25·6
Other British Possessions ...	43,195	15·1	50,852	18·7
Other foreign countries ...	14,727	5·2	11,485	4·2
	<u>£284,716</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>£272,291</u>	<u>100%</u>

The decrease in trade from the United Kingdom from 45·3 to 30·7 per cent. occurred mainly under cotton piece-goods (from £73,436 in 1923 to £36,858 in 1924).

EXPORTS.

The value of exports for the year amounted to £350,806, of which £344,879 represented the value of local products and £5,927 of re-exports.

The quantity and value of the principal local products exported were as follows :—

	Cwts.	£
Cocoa, raw ...	85,394	201,547
Cotton, raw ...	2,842	15,180
Cotton-seed ...	7,030	2,755
Spices :—		
Nutmegs ...	19,369	95,321
Mace ...	3,234	24,874

The direction of the export trade was as follows :—

	1923.	Percentage	1924.	Percentage
	£	of total.	£	of total.
United Kingdom	137,052	54·4	161,012	46·7
United States of America ...	77,602	30·8	151,784	44·0
Canada ...	23,171	9·2	13,691	4·0
Other British Possessions ...	7,444	3·0	10,808	3·1
Other foreign countries ...	6,529	2·6	7,584	2·2
	<u>£251,798</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>£344,879</u>	<u>100%</u>

The bulk of the cocoa goes to the United Kingdom, which took 47,739 cwts. in 1924, the United States of America taking 28,365 cwts.

Of nutmegs, exportation to the United States of America amounted in quantity to 13,429 cwts., and to the United Kingdom 5,130 cwts.

The bulk of the mace also goes to the United States of America, which took 2,063 cwts., while exports to the United Kingdom were 998 cwts.

All the cotton exported, 2,842 cwts., went to the United Kingdom.

AGRICULTURE.

The rains which set in towards the end of May restored the excellent condition of permanent cultivation of cocoa and nutmegs. The cocoa crop year begins on 1st October, and from that date onwards until the end of the year a large and early crop was reaped. For the crop year ended 30th September, 1924, however, the volume was small, the number of bags exported being only 47,064 (of 180 lb. each). The largest crop recorded by the Agricultural Department was that of the year ended 30th September, 1917, when 77,275 bags were exported. The decrease in volume in the past few years has been caused mainly by a hurricane in 1921, adverse weather conditions, and low market prices, the latter feature having led to abandonment of some cultivation on lands not naturally suited to cocoa, and on which it could only profitably be grown when market prices were high.

The nutmeg crop for the year ended 30th September, 1924, was 19,343 cwts., as compared with 24,680 cwts. in the previous twelve months.

The quantity of mace exported was 3,234 cwts., as compared with 3,088 cwts. in the preceding year.

Canes are grown to a very small extent, but the Agricultural Department report that cane cultivation has been very much extended in the southern portion of the Island, and the result should be seen in a larger crop in 1925.

Almost all of the cotton is produced in Carriacou, although lately several acres have been planted in Grenada. Pink Boll Worm made its appearance in Carriacou and Grenada during the year, and the usual steps under legislative authority have been taken for its control. The crop exported in 1924 was 2,842 cwts., as compared with 2,950 cwts. in 1923. The value was £15,180, as compared with £12,904.

LAND.

There are no Crown Lands for sale. Such lands as remain in the possession of the Crown consist almost entirely of mountainous areas which have been preserved as forest or rain reserves.

There is a very large number of individual owners of land in the Colony, as will be seen from the following table :—

Number of Owners of Land at 31st December, 1924.

	<i>Over 2½</i>	<i>Over 5</i>	<i>Over 7</i>	<i>Over 10</i>	
<i>2½ acres and not exceeding 5 acres.</i>	<i>and not exceeding 5 acres.</i>	<i>and not exceeding 7 acres.</i>	<i>and not exceeding 100 acres.</i>	<i>and not exceeding 100 acres.</i>	<i>Over 100 acres.</i>
12,135	1,559	350	209	411	14,664
					142

INDUSTRIES.

A whaling industry on modern lines, which was foreshadowed in last year's Report, was successfully started during the year, as the result of a visit to the Colony of Captain Otto Sverdrup, the well-known Arctic explorer and whaler, who was satisfied that a sufficient number of whales was present in adjacent waters to justify the formation of a company to conduct whaling operations with up-to-date appliances. The company is a Norwegian one, with headquarters at Oslo. The whaling station is situated on Glover Island, off the south-west corner of the Colony. Two whale-catchers arrived in December, and whaling commenced in January of the present year. The whaling season lasts from January to May and further reference to this industry will appear in the report pertaining to the year 1925.

Efforts to establish new agricultural industries have steadily been made, for the danger of having "one's eggs all in one basket" has been pointedly illustrated by the widespread hardships caused by the slump in the price of cocoa, on which crop the Colony has relied in the past to far too great an extent. Both bananas and pine-apples have offered possibilities of successful cultivation. In the case of the former, the taking up and planting of land in bananas in the neighbouring Colony of St. Lucia by a company connected with the marketing of the fruit in England, and interested also in shipping, has made the prospect of a banana industry in Grenada more promising and encouraging than would otherwise have been the case. It is to be hoped that the rise in the price of cocoa—which has since fallen again—will not result in making owners of cocoa estates indifferent to the chance of establishing a profitable and safe new industry. Some land is also available for the cultivation of pine-apples, and enquiries are being made regarding the methods adopted in other places both as to cultivation and canning of the fruit for exportation.

No further development has taken place in connection with the projected establishment of an improved factory for the manufacture of sugar.

The production of rum fell to 25,077 proof gallons on account of the reduced area under cane as the result of unfavourable weather conditions. There were 11 distilleries at work during the year. There is an ice factory, subsidized by Government, in St. George's.

V. Legislation.

Twenty-two Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the principal were :—

No. 4.—Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, to provide for increased rates of duty.

No. 7.—Cotton Plant Protection Ordinance, legalising measures necessary to restrict Pink Boll Worm disease of cotton.

- No. 15.—Whale Fishery Ordinance, controlling the operations of whaling.
 No. 19.—Venereal Diseases Ordinance, repealing original Ordinances.
 No. 20.—Seditious Publications Ordinance, repealing original Ordinance.
 No. 21.—Pensions Amendment Ordinance, providing for gratuities and reduced pensions in lieu of normal pensions.

VI. Educational Progress.

PRIMARY.

There are 58 primary schools—10 being Government schools and 48 grant-in-aid schools, the latter number being made up as follows :—27 Roman Catholic, 14 Anglican, 5 Wesleyan, and 2 Presbyterian.

The recurrent annual cost of primary education is practically borne entirely by Government funds, the contribution by Government being £6,739 out of a total expenditure of £6,754.

The number of pupils on the roll was 10,704, and the average attendance 6,438, the percentage of average attendance to the number on roll being 60·1. The cost per head of average attendance was £1 1s. Changes in the law and regulations were made during the year with a view to simplifying the procedure of classification and grading of schools, and effecting more control over the estimates of expenditure.

SECONDARY.

Progress at the Government Boys' School in St. George's was satisfactorily maintained, and at the Cambridge School Certification examination the results obtained were :—

Candidates. Passed. Honours. Distinction.

School certificate	9	8	3	4
Junior	11	7	1	1

The number of pupils at the School was 68.

For secondary education of girls there is the St. Joseph's Convent School and the Church of England High School, each of which receives an annual grant from the Government amounting to £186.

The External Scholarship has now been discontinued.

VII. Communications.

The Colony, although its configuration is mountainous and irregular, is well furnished with roads in every part, there being approximately 114 miles of main roads and about 305 miles of by-ways. The gradients in many instances are stiff, but all the main roads and almost all the by-ways are suitable for motor traffic.

The Government runs a mail and passenger motor-bus service between St. George's and Sauteurs, via the eastern side of the Island, passing through St. David's and Grenville. There is also a private motor-bus service between St. George's and Sauteurs. On the western side of the Island there is a good motor road from St. George's through Gouyave and Victoria to Sauteurs. A private motor-bus service plies between Gouyave and St. George's. There is also a subsidized motor-boat service on the western coast, running daily to and from St. George's and Sauteurs, with a weekly call at Carriacou.

Postal business is conducted at the head office in St. George's and at sub-offices in each of the principal towns, while there are several postal stations throughout the Colony.

TELEGRAPHS.

There is no inland telegraph service. The Colony is connected to neighbouring Colonies by the cable system of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, and a wireless station was last year erected and is operated by the Pacific Cable Board via Barbados.

TELEPHONES.

A telephone service has long been established in the Colony, and at very moderate rental rates gives a linking-up service through the entire Island with no trunk line charges. There are telephone exchanges in all the principal towns, and 533 instruments are in use. The number of telephone instruments per 100 of the population in St. George's is four, and the percentage in the entire Island is approximately one. There are 159 miles of direct wire, and 781 miles connecting subscribers and exchanges.

SHIPPING.

Direct communication with the United Kingdom is maintained by the steamers of the Harrison Line, their passenger steamers calling about once a month, and their cargo steamers at frequent but irregular intervals.

Communication between the British West Indian Islands and with Canada is provided fortnightly by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's service.

There is a direct service to New York by the Furness Withy Line at intervals of about 10 days, the journey occupying 7 days.

HERBERT FERGUSON,

Administrator.

8th June, 1925.

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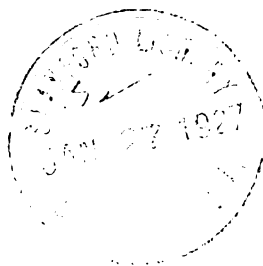
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STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1186 and 1235 (Price 2s. and 1s. 9d. respectively)).



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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1924.

Historical and Geographical Notes.

The Straits Settlements, comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude $1^{\circ} 17'$ north, and longitude $103^{\circ} 50'$ east.

SITUATION AND AREA.

SINGAPORE.

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

PENANG.

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity or entrance to the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in $5^{\circ} 24'$ north latitude, and $100^{\circ} 21'$ east longitude.

MALACCA.

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in $2^{\circ} 10'$ north latitude, and $102^{\circ} 14'$ east longitude.

THE DINDINGS.

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude $4^{\circ} 15'$ north and longitude $100^{\circ} 35'$ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

COCOS OR KEELING ISLANDS.

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude $11^{\circ} 50'$ and $12^{\circ} 45'$ south, and in longitude approximately $96^{\circ} 50'$ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude $10^{\circ} 30'$ south, longitude $105^{\circ} 40'$ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employés of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

The total area of the Colony with these dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

LABUAN.

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

The average annual rainfall is about 168 inches, and the thermometer ranges from 71° to 93°.

Labuan has a fine port Victoria Harbour (latitude 5° 16' north, longitude 115° 15' east), safe, and easy of access.

It is a market for produce from Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, such as sago, beeswax, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, india-rubber, rattans, tortoise-shell, and bêche-de-mer, which is re-exported to Singapore. Cattle and goats are reared and 2,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation.

There is a branch of the Government Post Office Savings Bank, but no other bank. The currency is that of the Straits Settlements.

The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and other natives from Brunei, and Chinese, the latter being mostly petty traders.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has a station on the island connected by cable with Singapore, Hongkong and North Borneo. The nearest point in telegraphic communication with Europe is Singapore.

The population at the 1921 Census was 5,909.

HISTORY.

MALACCA.

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In

1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG.

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah who stipulated that the sum of \$6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased in return to \$10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River: it is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE.

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823, it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN.

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan.

At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

I.—Finances.

The revenue for the year 1924 amounted to \$28,639,161 exceeding the Estimates by \$1,029,566, whilst the expenditure was \$26,706,316 being \$861,803 less than the Estimate.

The revenue was \$4,676,854 less than that of 1923, while expenditure fell short of the 1923 figure by \$11,462. The excess of revenue over expenditure was \$1,932,845, as compared with \$6,598,237 in 1923.

The actual figures for 1923 and 1924 are as follows:—

(i).—REVENUE.

—	1923.	1924.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	1,662	2,027	365	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	23,493,001	20,217,871	...	3,275,130
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	973,225	1,020,382	47,157	...
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	1,723,412	1,694,732	...	28,680
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,532,744	1,522,806	...	9,938
6. Interest ...	2,432,528	2,611,858	179,330	...
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	3,033,716	1,418,742	...	1,614,974
	33,190,288	28,488,418	226,852	4,928,722
8. Land Sales ...	125,727	150,743	25,016	...
TOTAL ...	33,316,015	28,639,161	251,868	4,928,722
	Net	Decrease ...	...	4,676,854

The major factor in the decrease under Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue was the drop of \$3¼ million in Opium Revenue while the absence of Income Tax accounted for a further decrease of \$½ million. The only increase of any magnitude under this head was from Stamp Duties which brought in \$350,000 more than in 1923 mainly due to increased receipts from Estate Duty.

Under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts the overpayments of Defence Contribution refunded in 1923 amounted to roughly \$1,700,000 and in 1924 to \$846,000 only.

The actual revenue of 1924 exceeded the corresponding estimates of revenue under the following heads: --

			\$
Coral, Granite etc.	...	...	a 356,774
Petroleum Duty	...	...	65,652
Stamp Duties	...	...	214,986
Fees of Court	...	...	139,575
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	231,620
Rents on Government Property	...	...	207,438
Interest	...	...	948,332
Miscellaneous Receipts	...	...	1,320,292
Land Sales	...	...	85,642

Opium Revenue was, however, nearly \$2½ million short of the estimated collection.

(a) Royalty on granite used on Johore Causeway paid by F.M.S. amounted to \$351,866.70.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE.

—	1923.	1924.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions ...	920,010	981,185	61,175	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	18,807	20,695	1,888	...
4. The Governor ...	128,021	134,358	6,336	...
5. Civil Service ...	710,583	720,515	9,932	...
6. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	193,366	180,238	...	13,128
7. Secretary to High Commissioner ...	...	16,785	16,785	...
8. Government Printing Office	148,038	212,857	64,819	...
9. Land and District Offices ...	305,923	321,571	15,648	...
10. Forests ...	43,230	29,567	...	13,663
11. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	86,654	77,764	...	8,890
12. Treasury ...	210,367	200,625	...	9,742
13. Audit ...	86,450	92,447	5,997	...
14. Director of External Audit ...	14,549	3,815	...	10,734
15. Marine ...	598,035	641,066	43,031	...
16. Imports, Exports and Statistics ...	70,677	74,306	3,629	...
17. Legal ...	401,629	391,461	...	10,168
18. Police ...	2,377,304	2,389,542	12,238	...
19. Prisons ...	384,519	398,134	13,615	...
20. Medical ...	434,248	384,476	...	49,772
21. Health Branch, Singapore...	228,692	262,126	33,434	...
22. Hospitals and Dispensaries	1,119,612	1,363,612	244,000	...
23. Veterinary ...	59,913	59,737	...	176
24. Education ...	860,034	957,114	97,080	...
25. Ecclesiastical ...	25,400	24,424	...	976
26. Transport ...	218,224	244,709	26,485	...
27. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	3,857,143	3,556,188	...	300,955
II. Local Forces ...	319,423	554,380	234,957	...
28. Miscellaneous Services ...	6,662,586	4,448,766	...	2,213,820
29. Post Office ...	1,275,583	1,421,644	146,061	...
30. Government Monopolies ...	504,527	574,712	70,185	...
31. Fisheries Department, S. S. and F. M. S. ...	56,764	30,104	...	26,660
32. Agricultural Department ...	97,134	29,628	...	67,505
33. Botanical Gardens ...	90,471	92,479	2,008	...
34. Raffles Museum and Library ...	42,697	49,444	6,747	...
35. Income Tax ...	21,794	...	...	21,794
36. Survey Department ...	523,904	411,213	...	112,691
37. Public Works Department...	462,147	462,696	549	...
38. Public Works, Recurrent ...	602,283	631,004	28,721	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	2,519,954	4,223,846	1,703,892	...
TOTAL ...	26,717,778	26,706,316	2,849,212	2,860,674
	Net	Decrease ...	\$11,462	

The increase under Government Printing Office is to be attributed to an extension of its plant in order to undertake work for the Unfederated Malay States.

Under Military Expenditure (Local Forces) some \$200,000 extra is due to special expenditure on equipment and buildings.

Under Post Office over \$100,000 of the increase was caused by special expenditure and the same explanation accounts for the rise in the cost of Government Monopolies.

The decrease under Medical was due to the transfer of a number of appointments to Hospitals and Dispensaries.

The decrease under Agricultural is caused by the inclusion of a large sum in Appendix *V* for the general adjustment of joint expenses with the Federated Malay States and the decrease under Survey is accounted for partly by this explanation and partly by a drop in special expenditure.

The principal savings effected on the Estimated Expenditure of 1924 were in respect of :—

			\$
Civil Service	...	...	34,398
External Audit	...	...	74,222
Marine	...	...	86,608
Hospitals and Dispensaries	...	...	213,091
Education	...	...	311,424
Military Expenditure (Defence Contribution)	...	...	443,812
Post Office	...	...	380,167
Government Monopolies	...	...	82,895
Public Works Recurrent	...	...	78,941
Police	...	...	188,056
Health Branch	...	...	39,951
Legal	...	...	48,858
Fisheries	...	...	42,754
Survey Department	...	...	45,668

Miscellaneous Services 1924 showed an excess of nearly \$1 million over the estimate. Under this head Personal Emoluments and Other Charges Annually Recurrent were well within the estimate but the Special Expenditure included more than \$1 million for purchase of land and buildings which was not provided for in the Estimates.

Public Works Extraordinary exceeded the estimate in 1924 by about \$ $\frac{1}{4}$ million but this was due to debiting the cost of works originally charged to Surplus Funds to the public works expenditure of the year.

Exclusive of Defence Contribution and of Special Expenditure connected with the War, the following table shows the Colony's expenditure for the last seven years and the portion of it which has gone in Public Works Extraordinary:—

		<i>Total Expenditure.</i>	<i>Public Works Extraordinary.</i>
		—	—
		\$	\$
1918	...	8,687,204	458,257
1919	...	29,111,433	892,571
1920	...	35,452,052	1,465,890
1921	...	29,807,490	3,531,938
1922	...	20,969,940	2,266,281
1923	...	22,860,635	2,519,954
1924	...	23,150,128	4,223,846

The difference of 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions between expenditure for 1918 and expenditure for 1924 is mainly accounted for by the following increases:—Personal Emoluments 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ millions and Public Works Extraordinary 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ millions, while Contributions to Rural Boards and Hospitals have increased by three quarters of a million dollars.

(iii).—STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, were as follows:—

<i>Liabilities.</i>		<i>Assets.</i>	
	\$		\$
Deposits ...	9,087,926	Investments ...	50,558,805
Drafts and Remittances ...	21,122	Advances ...	662,430
Suspense ...	2,490,294	Imprests ...	52,373
Investments Depreciation Account ...	102,453	Cash in Transit ..	24,814
Loans:—		Loans:—	
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921-1926 ...	20,216,300	Municipalities ...	10,956,160
		Kelantan Government ...	520,000
		Trengganu Government	700,000
		Singapore Harbour Board ...	2,406,207
Surplus—		Penang Harbour Board	1,116,413
Reserved for specific purposes (a) ...	\$22,939,102	Ho Hong Steamship Co.	180,000
Unreserved ...	43,889,225	Singapore Cricket Club	42,548
	66,828,327	Brunei Government ...	18,000
		Federated Malay States Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	15,000,000
		Johore Government Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	800,000
		Municipality, Singapore Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan	3,500,000
		Municipality, Penang Re-Loan of Straits Settlements 1921 Loan ...	916,300
		Sailors' Institute ...	200,000
		Stadium Association ...	30,000
		War Service Land Grants Scheme ...	95,900
		Indian Agency Account...	236,900
		Cash ...	10,729,572
TOTAL ...	\$98,746,422	TOTAL ...	\$98,746,422

(a) *Loans:—*

Loans to Municipalities ...	\$10,055,000
Loan to Government of Trengganu ...	300,000
Loan to Sailors' Institute ...	90,000
Loan to Penang Harbour Board ...	1,078,200
	\$11,523,200

Commitments of Expenditure:—

For completion of New Post Office and New General Hospital ...	\$6,616,161
Raffles College Buildings ...	1,000,000
Malacca Water Supply ...	1,933,725
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply ...	1,000,000
Development of Penang Hill ...	866,016
	\$11,415,902
TOTAL ...	\$22,939,102

(iv).—PUBLIC DEBT.

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1907 amounted, on the 31st December, 1924 to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is \$59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	\$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works ...	320,137
	<hr/>
Total ...	\$55,869,097
	<hr/>
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received	3,388,205
	<hr/>
	\$59,257,302

The charge on account of interest on and expenses of this loan was \$2,081,173 in 1924. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the Sinking Fund of this loan on 31st December, 1924, was approximately \$5,800,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent War Loan 1918 stands at \$28,655,700, under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 at \$36,718,200, and under the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at \$15,074,300. The principal and the major portion of the interest on all these three loans is payable by His Majesty's Government.

The proceeds of the Straits Settlements 7 per cent Loan (1921) were lent to the following Governments and Municipalities, which pay all the interest due on the Loan and will repay the principal on redemption date:—

	\$
Federated Malay States Government	15,000,000
Johore Government ...	800,000
Singapore Municipality ...	3,500,000
Penang Municipality ...	916,300
	<hr/>
Total ...	\$20,216,300

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance 24 of 1921 amounted to \$80,185,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the Loan and of Sinking Fund Contributions to extinguish the Loan.

(v).—EXCHANGE.

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1924:—

- The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
- „ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
- „ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.
- „ Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij).
- „ Banque de l'Indo Chine.
- „ International Banking Corporation.
- „ Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank).
- „ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited.
- „ Bank of Taiwan, Limited.
- „ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
- „ Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited.
- „ Ho Hong Bank, Limited.
- „ China and Southern Bank, Limited.
- „ Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited.
- „ Lee Wah Bank, Limited.
- „ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited.
- „ Banque Industrielle de Chine.

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between $2/4 - 5/32$ and $2/3 - 7/8$.

(vi).—CURRENCY.

No change was made in the Currency legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation in the currency area at the end of the year, consisted of \$85,491,478.70 in currency notes and \$6,607,346.32 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of \$142,082 as compared with \$144,090 at the end of 1923.

At the beginning of the year 1924 the currency notes in circulation amounted in value to \$81,123,024.70. There was a demand by the public for currency during the months of January and December, which resulted in the issue of \$4,257,100 in exchange for sterling.

The net result over the whole year shows that the value of the currency notes in circulation increased to \$85,491,478.70 at the end of 1924.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to \$47,481,929.33 consisting of £328,251 in gold, \$13,470,214.18 in silver and \$2,283,284.04 on deposit with the Government held locally and £773,330 in gold and £2,600,069.5.11 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, \$82,749,078.03, the cost price of those investments being \$85,443,373.85.

The Currency Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was worth \$130,268,861.62 (liquid portion \$47,481,929.33 investment portion \$82,749,078.03 and cash balance of the Currency Commissioners Income Account \$37,854.26). The excess value of the fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was \$44,777,382.92 as compared with an excess of \$39,043,355.08 at the end of 1923.

There was a net receipt by the Treasurer of \$146,363 in subsidiary silver coins during the year but there was a net increased issue by the Currency Commissioners of ten cent notes to the value of \$216,730.

Subsidiary silver to the amount of \$8,273,980.65 was in circulation at the end of the year and \$1,539,949.70 in currency notes of values less than \$1.

The value of notes below \$1 in circulation at the end of 1922 was \$1,621,695.70 and at the end of 1923 \$1,323,219.70.

The number of notes destroyed during the year totalled 28,551,362 against 23,508,315 in 1923. The increased rate of destruction is mainly due to an alteration in the methods of dealing with notes of face value below \$50.

Of the notes destroyed 9,310,420 were 10-cent notes and 13,495,234 were \$1 notes.

At the beginning of the year the total number of notes awaiting destruction was 794,071 and a further 28,157,604 were cancelled during the year, making a total of 28,951,675 for destruction. The total number destroyed

was 28,551,362 and the balance awaiting destruction at the end of the year was consequently 400,313.

(vii).—ENEMY PROPERTY.

Custodian of Enemy Property.

Of the proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property in the hands of the Custodian of Enemy Property a sum of \$750,435.14 was transferred to the Controller of the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London, during the year 1924, making the total of the amount transferred to that Office to 31st December, 1924 \$12,403,722.04.

At the end of the year the Custodian still had under his control \$1,662,784.43 of which \$1,618,502.67 was invested.

LOCAL CLEARING OFFICE.

Claims by and Against Germany.

The claims by German against British Nationals dealt with during the year amounted to \$42,399.88 making a total of \$1,875,212.91 from the date of the establishment of the office. The admissions and contests during the year were \$5,354.31 and \$8,535.76 respectively, making a total of \$190,146.51 for admissions and of \$1,603,093.26 for contests from 1920 to 31st December, 1924. The claims withdrawn during the year by Germany amounted to \$644,133.10 making a total of \$1,399,724.91 to 31st December, 1924.

British claims against German Nationals forwarded to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) London during the year amounted to \$24,413.85 and the admissions by Germans amounted to \$754.96 making totals presented and admitted from 1920 to the end of 1924 of \$320,537.14 and \$34,543.31 respectively.

The claims contested by Germans during the year amounted to \$24,413.85 and brought the total of contested claims to 31st December, 1924 up to \$190,844.75.

Of the claims contested by Germans, this Clearing Office withdrew \$2,447.74 during the year and thus brought the total of withdrawn claims to 31st December, 1924, up to \$11,788.55, leaving the balance in dispute.

During the year this Clearing Office collected \$7,088.71 from British Nationals on account of debts admitted due to Germans, and paid out \$1,158.59 to British Nationals in respect of their claims against Germans admitted by the

German Clearing Office. The total collections and payments from 1920 to 31st December, 1924, are \$177,121.27 and \$48,794.18 respectively.

In addition to the above claims by British Nationals against German Nationals under Article 296 of the Peace Treaty, claims amounting to \$1,531.83 were presented against the Treuhander for Enemy Property, Germany, in respect of property of British Nationals seized by that Office during the period of the war. The total presented under Article 297 to 31st December, 1924 is \$74,615.68. During the year the Treuhander admitted \$1,214.64 in respect of property seized and a further sum of \$450 on account of compensation in lieu of interest on moneys released during the previous year. The total of admissions by the Treuhander to 31st December, 1924 is \$26,622.43.

Claims by and against Austrian and Hungarian Nationals.

The claims presented by Austrian Nationals against British Nationals to 31st December, 1924, amounted to \$39,244.36. Of this amount this Clearing Office admitted \$186.56 and contested the balance of \$39,057.80. Of the contested amount the Austrian Clearing Office withdrew \$38,163.28 leaving \$894.52 in dispute on 31st December, 1924. No claims by British Nationals against Austrian Nationals have been registered with this Clearing Office to the end of the year.

Of the claims for \$3,021.41 forwarded to the Hungarian Clearing Office in the year 1921 \$265.02 was admitted during the year leaving the balance of \$2,756.39 still in dispute.

With a view to expediting the settlement of outstanding claims under Article 296 of the Treaty of Versailles an Agreement was entered into on the 30th June, 1924 between the British and the German Clearing Offices providing for the summary settlement locally of all outstanding claims of £50 or under.

The Controller's investments on 31st December, 1924 remained at \$130,000 as in the previous year.

II.—Shipping and Trade, Agriculture, Forests, Land and Fisheries.

(a) SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 32,617,101 as compared with 29,936,949 in 1923.

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1923 and 1924.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1924.

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NATIONALITY.	1923.				1924.				Increase in 1924 as compared with 1923.	Decrease in 1924 as compared with 1923.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christ-mas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Christ-mas Island and Labuan.	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared).
American	674,349	267,330	41,898	...	983,577	767,420	469,018	19,290	203,848	1,255,728
Austrian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,932	4,932
B. N. Borneo	9,646,559	5,729,320	309,806	7,466	15,844,160	10,009,261	6,405,328	348,724	...	16,967,161
British	64,514	4,440	...	158,475	68,934	19,018	...	6,150	...	25,168
Chinese	351,454	188,754	6,674	...	546,882	421,354	234,160	...	...	655,514
Danish	...	...	...	...	...	19,632	...	...	...	19,632
Danzig	3,559,736	708,893	...	...	4,268,629	4,036,373	865,967	386	1,014	4,903,740
Dutch	1,106,489	571,414	...	...	1,677,903	1,258,890	250,344	...	...	1,509,234
French	534,591	83,950	...	...	618,541	691,564	151,526	...	...	843,090
German	204,940	176,974	...	...	381,914	312,482	261,492	...	...	573,974
Italian	3,353,709	775,650	241,346	64,818	4,435,523	3,369,853	991,828	257,424	98,352	4,717,457
Japanese	369,101	45,775	...	...	414,876	437,212	67,716	...	1,684	506,612
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	...	15,980	...	...	...	15,980
Panama	74,342	...	...	...	74,342	17,512	49,246	...	...	66,758
Russian	108,775	...	...	996	109,771	94,110	...	...	...	94,110
Sarawak	234,711	...	...	...	234,711	194,510	...	...	...	194,510
Siamese	61,752	...	...	...	61,752	69,514	...	...	...	69,514
Spanish	167,550	40,398	...	...	207,948	191,258	...	...	2,729	193,987
Swedish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	20,512,572	8,592,898	599,724	231,755	29,936,949	21,925,943	9,746,625	631,974	312,559	32,617,101
										2,970,014
										289,862
Net Increase									...	2,680,152

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1920 ...	...	...	24,027,912 tons.
1921 ...	...	...	25,055,798 „
1922 ...	...	...	26,913,256 „
1923 ...	...	...	29,936,949 „
1924 ...	...	...	32,617,101 „

In the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels) the combined arrivals and departures were 62,921 in number and 2,281,925 in tons in 1924 as compared with 59,238 and 2,174,942, respectively, in 1923.

Two new steam-vessels and two motor-vessels with a tonnage of 3,897 tons gross and thirty-one sailing-vessels of 2,770 tons were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 9 new sailing-vessels of 736 tons were licensed under section 424, and 742 vessels of 5,989 tons under section 425.

HARBOUR BOARDS.

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the years ended June 30, 1923, and June 30, 1924, have been as follows:—

	<i>Income.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	\$	\$
Year ended 30th June, 1923 ...	7,881,712	5,923,898
Year ended 30th June, 1924 ...	8,222,042	6,070,943

The capital debt due to Government stood at 30th June, 1924, at \$50,126,732 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. In addition to this capital, the Board has expended on new works and other expenditure of a permanent nature a sum of \$6,087,045 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1924, were \$1,052,959 and the expenditure \$965,501.

(b) TRADE.

The value of the aggregate Trade of the Colony which was recorded in 1924 shows an increase of £16½ million over last year, but the increase is not as pronounced as that of

1923 over 1922: Tin, Tinsplates, Motor vehicles, Rice, Spices, Copra and provisions are the chief commodities responsible for the increase. The quantity of rubber exported was in excess by about 5,000 tons but the value was less by about 15 million dollars.

The exports of Tin increased both in quantity and value: the average price also showing a higher level.

The following figures show the value of the Colony trade for the last six years, the value of Coin and Bullion, and of the trade between the Settlements, being excluded:—

Year.	IMPORTS EXPORTS of Merchandise.		IMPORTS EXPORTS Comparison with preceding year.	
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
1919 ...	96,664	99,318	+ 15,046	+ 27,396
1920 ...	124,216	102,536	+ 27,552	+ 3,218
1921 ...	65,791	56,138	- 58,425	- 46,398
1922 ...	66,692	62,060	+ 901	+ 5,922
1923 ...	89,002	82,590	+ 22,310	+ 20,530
1924 ...	98,915	89,430	+ 9,913	+ 6,840

The aggregate trade for the year 1924 excluding inter-settlement trade was therefore £188.3 millions as against £171.6 millions in 1923, an increase of £16.7 millions.

The value of the inter-settlement trade for the last six years, including treasure, was as follows:—

Year.	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	IMPORTS EXPORTS Comparison with preceding year.	
			(in thousands)	
	£	£	£	£
1919 ..	13,164	13,235	+ 3,981	+ 3,651
1920 ..	14,938	14,797	+ 1,774	+ 1,562
1921 ...	6,904	6,887	- 8,034	- 7,910
1922 ...	5,148	5,078	- 1,756	- 1,809
1923 ...	5,728	5,607	+ 580	+ 529
1924 ...	5,125	5,049	- 603	- 558

Bullion and Specie.—The following are the figures for the last four years:—

		<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
		—	—
		(000's)	
		£	£
1921	...	2,335	1,887
1922	...	1,892	1,301
1923	...	1,883	616
1924	...	1,607	561

The following figures show the trade according to classes:—

	IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	(000's)							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks and Narcotics	26,204	25,044	26,223	28,348	21,129	19,056	19,722	21,412
II. Raw Materials	24,391	29,140	46,425	43,839	25,439	35,426	53,191	32,999
III. Manufactured and partly Manufactured Articles ...	15,196	12,508	16,354	26,728	9,570	7,577	9,677	35,019
TOTAL ...	65,791	66,692	89,002	98,915	56,138	62,059	82,590	89,430

Owing to the adoption of the new classification of articles and units of quantity on the lines of the United Kingdom list, commodities have been transferred to different classes and groups, and comparisons cannot therefore very well be made this year with previous years

The following tables show the quantities and values of certain principal commodities imported and exported in 1924 but for the reason above stated only the increase or decrease of the value is shown.

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IMPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted 1923.	1923.		How Counted 1924.	1924.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
Para Rubber	Centals of 100 lbs.	3,850	(000's) \$ 163,273	Tons.	199,044	(000's) \$ 165,141	...	(000's) \$ 1,868	...	(000's) \$...
Tin Ore	Pls.	1,353	94,831	"	92,261	135,241	...	40,410	...	...
Rice	"	8,986	58,863	"	535,941	67,570	...	8,707	...	...
Milk Condensed and Ster- lized	Cases	709	9,763	Cases	727,701	9,611	...	...	...	152
Sugar	Pls.	1,360	16,624	Tons.	91,166	18,158	...	1,534	...	...
Cigarettes	lbs.	10,969	20,571	lbs.	12,007,605	20,680	...	109	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted	Pls.	841	13,167	Tons.	60,818	14,629	...	1,462	...	...
Areanuts	"	988	9,575	"	56,626	11,013	...	1,438	...	...
Benzine (a)	Galls.	26,510	23,643	"	98,147	27,213	...	3,570	...	...
Petroleum (b)	Cases	2,573	14,310	"	82,034	13,019	...	...	...	1,291
Sago	Pls.	745	3,393	"	58,893	5,131	...	1,738	...	...
Cotton Piece Goods	Pieces	6,493	32,632	Yards.	111,542,368	29,920	...	...	...	2,712
Sarongs	Corges.	498	13,806	Nos.	9,505,640	13,128	...	...	...	678
Copra	Pls.	2,375	24,415	Tons.	154,033	28,766	...	4,351	...	...
Pepper	"	277	4,979	"	19,136	7,834	...	2,855	...	...
Rattans	"	413	3,868	"	25,749	4,046	...	178	...	...
Coal	Tons.	633	9,803	"	695,214	10,088	...	285	...	...
Machinery	Value.	...	6,810	Nos.	67,625	6,584	...	...	...	226

(a) Now classified under Motor Spirit.

(b) Now classified under Petroleum "Kerosene".

N. B.—Owing to the new classification of articles and units of quantity being adopted in January, 1924 increases and decreases of quantities are not shown this year.

DETAILS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED.

Articles.	How Counted. 1923.	1923.		How Counted. 1924.	1924.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
		Quantities.	Values.		Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
		(000's)	(000' s)			(000' s)		(000' s)		(000' s)
Para Rubber	Centals of 100 lbs.	4,588	\$ 227,893	Tons.	210,135	\$ 212,855	...	\$	...	\$
Tin	Pls.	1,171	119,717	"	80,693	169,177	...	49,460	...	15,038
Rice	"	5,372	38,182	"	326,836	41,942	...	3,760	...	...
Milk Condensed and Sterilized	Cases	332	4,674	Cases.	373,654	4,975	...	301	...	...
Sugar	Pls.	766	9,825	Tons.	46,311	9,487	...	...	...	338
Cigarettes	lbs.	8,885	15,899	lbs.	9,881,127	16,065	...	166	...	...
Fish, Dried and Salted	Pls.	818	14,280	Tons.	59,072	16,038	...	1,758	...	...
Areca nuts	"	1,071	12,470	"	62,166	14,942	...	2,472	...	...
Benzine (a)	Galls.	26,146	23,878	"	70,055	19,314	...	...	...	4,564
Petroleum (b)	Cases	2,023	11,300	"	64,206	10,519	...	...	...	781
Sago	Pls.	828	4,718	"	58,708	6,541	...	1,823	...	170
Cotton Piece Goods	Pieces	4,027	20,988	Yards.	79,906,401	20,818	...	...	...	...
Sarongs	Corges.	319	8,371	Nos.	6,413,742	9,040	...	669	...	...
Copra	Pls.	2,527	28,649	Tons.	151,460	31,290	...	2,641	...	...
Pepper	"	312	6,002	"	19,703	8,333	...	2,331	...	...
Rattans	"	388	5,787	"	22,921	5,607	...	...	...	180
Preserved Pineapples	Cases	843	5,549	"	35,333	8,154	...	2,605	...	...
Rubber Latex	Galls.	46	80	Gallons	21,133	42	...	...	...	38

(a) Now classified under Motor Spirit

(b) Now classified under Petroleum "Kerosene".

N.B.—Owing to the new classification of articles and units of quantity being adopted in January, 1924 increases and decreases of quantities are not shown this year.

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924:—

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
	(000's)	(000's) \$	(000's)	(000's) \$	(000's)	(000's) \$		(000's) \$
Malay States	1,923	47,766	2,634	70,462	2,272	107,739	90,519	88,843
Netherlands Indies ...	303	7,115	619	13,563	1,331	44,533	93,113	61,797
Other Countries ...	110	2,535	178	4,882	247	11,001	15,411	14,501
Total ...	2,336	57,416	3,431	88,907	3,850	163,273	199,043	165,141

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924:—

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Centals of 100 lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
	(000's)	(000's) \$	(000's)	(000's) \$	(000's)	(000's) \$		(000's) \$
United Kingdom ...	398	13,333	223	6,784	498	25,465	14,020	14,755
United States of America	2,268	64,264	3,681	108,504	3,247	161,238	162,465	164,197
Other Countries ...	622	16,590	730	20,857	843	41,190	33,650	33,903
Total ...	3,288	94,187	4,634	136,145	4,588	227,893	210,135	212,855

Tin and tin ore were imported in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 from the following countries:—

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.	Tin.	Tin Ore.
	Pkls.	Pkls.	Pkls.	Pkls.	Pkls.	Pkls.	Tons.	Tons.
	* (in thousands)							
Malay States ...	73	678	96	714	122	766	7,092	54,352
Netherlands Indies ...	1	169	11	334	1	369	6	24,395
Siam ...	4	104	6	139	9	160	426	10,052
Other Countries ...	...	78	...	38	...	58	14	3,462
Total ...	78	1,029	113	1,225	132	1,353	7,538	92,261

* Figures for 1921, 1922 and 1923 are shown in thousands.

The Exports of Tin in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 were as follows:—

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Pkls.	Value.	Pkls.	Value.	Pkls.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
			(in thousands)					(000's)
		\$		\$		\$		\$
United Kingdom	200	16,338	185	14,776	169	17,578	16,335	33,964
United States of America ..	330	27,573	752	60,768	803	81,737	46,194	97,620
Other Countries	174	14,534	176	14,403	202	20,402	18,163	37,593
Total ...	704	58,445	1,113	89,947	1,174	119,717	80,692	169,177

It will be seen that the imports of Para Rubber from the Malay States decreased by 10,909 tons, while the Netherlands East Indies and other surrounding countries sent us an increase of 38,079 tons. The Exports show that 5,325 tons more were exported but the value decreased by about 15 million dollars, or say 1½ million sterling.

The increase in the imports of Tin Ore amounted to 11,725 tons and there was a decrease in the imports of tin of 319 tons.

The Exports of refined metal increased by 10,798 tons and the value was nearly 50 million dollars greater than 1923.

Other imported articles which show an increase in value over 1923 are Rice, Sugar, Fish Dry and Salted, Arecanuts, Motor Spirit (Benzine), Sago, Copra and Pepper, while a decrease has taken place in the value of Milk, Kerosine (Petroleum) Cotton Piece Goods, Sarongs and Machinery.

In Exports it will be found that the value of the following has increased, Rice, Fish, Arecanuts, Sago, Copra, Pepper and Preserved Pineapples, while Motor Spirit (Benzine) Rattans, Cottons Piece Goods, Kerosine and Sugar, show decreased values.

The increased exports of Preserved Pineapples should be noted. A matter of about 250,000 cases more were exported while the value of the total export increased by over 2½ million dollars over 1923.

The following table shows the value of the Merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Australia; countries in the Continent of Europe, the United States of America and Japan:—

	IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	(000's)	£	£	£
United Kingdom	7,730	7,386	8,253	9,050	5,629	4,799	7,516	8,457
Australia and New Zealand ...	1,844	1,628	1,597	1,620	260	365	503	1,236
Belgium	132	115	206	271	96	65	203	164
Denmark	89	72	103	104	181	191	571	406
France	389	361	509	705	1,302	1,977	2,679	3,202
Germany	103	282	581	610	1,238	1,792	1,222	1,274
Holland	353	398	429	582	1,142	1,033	1,314	1,891
Italy	362	437	490	617	419	797	1,228	1,434
Norway	4	6	225	113	...	3	11	23
Sweden	26	18	28	77	...	35	66	142
Spain	4	2	8	4	321	405	341	445
Russia	...	55	11	3	...	...	...	...
United States of America ...	2,990	1,892	2,041	2,541	11,418	20,751	29,381	31,765
Japan	2,627	2,106	2,110	1,919	2,030	1,786	3,275	2,902

An examination of the above table shows that the value of the import trade with ten of the countries mentioned increased slightly while that with Japan, Norway, Spain and Russia declined. As regards exports the increase in value is recorded in all the countries shown except Japan, Belgium and Denmark.

The value of the trade with the United Kingdom, increased in the case of imports in cigars and cigarettes, coal, tin-plates and yarns, and decreased in steel, paper, stationery, cotton piece goods and machinery. In exports values increased for tin, preserved pineapples, sago and pepper and decreases in the case of Para rubber, illipinuts, tapioca, copra and gutta percha.

United States of America.—Imports therefrom of petroleum, cigars and cigarettes increased in value while that of milk decreased. Exports of tin, pepper, gambier, copra, Para rubber increased in value, and rattans, preserved pine-apples and gums decreased.

Japan.—A decrease in the value of the aggregate trade is shown, but the values of cotton piece goods, dried and salted fish and matches imported increased, while coal, woodenware and hardware decreased. Exports: Tin increased, Para rubber decreased.

The total of the trade with the Netherlands Indies showed a considerable increase for this year over the previous year as follows:—

<i>Imports.</i>			<i>Exports.</i>		
1922.	1923.	1924.	1922.	1923.	1924.
—	—	—	—	—	—
(000,000's).			(000,000's)		
\$111	\$194	\$227	\$80·7	\$78·9	\$83·6

The considerably increased value of imports is accounted for by the increased quantity of rubber imported, while rice, cotton piece goods, cigarettes and dried fish are responsible for the increase in exports.

France.—Imports of Brandy, Milk, Motor Tyres and Motor-cars show increased values while that of perfumery has declined. Increases in the export values of Tin, Tapioca, and Copra, and decreases in that of Para Rubber and Illipinuts.

Germany.—The value of cement and beer imported were greater, while milk and iron nails were lower. Exports of Tin and Pepper thereto are higher in value, Copra and Para Rubber show a decline.

Italy.—Acetic Acid and Milk imports increased, Cement decreased. Exports of Tin, Pepper and Gutta Percha show a higher value. Copra and Para Rubber are lower.

Belgium.—Imports of Glassware, Sewing Threads, Zinc Sheetting declined in value. Exports of Sago, Tapioca increased while Copra, Para Rubber and Illipinuts show decreased values.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies.

During the year 43 new companies were registered, with a capital of \$20,527,857 of which 25 were private companies with a capital of \$6,397,857.

At the end of the year 430 companies remained on the register of which 50 were in liquidation: the total subscribed capital of the 367 companies carrying on business was \$160,411,207.

Four hundred and forty-seven companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance; of these, 340 are British, 30 are Japanese, 24 are Dutch, 3 are German and 24 are incorporated in the United States of America and Hawaii. Apart from these, 13 companies—all British—have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 5 foreign companies. Sixty-seven companies do Fire Insurance business.

Bankruptcies.

There were 73 trade bankruptcies of which 50 were Chinese. In 15 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In one case liabilities exceeded \$500,000, in 3 cases \$100,000 and 5 other cases \$50,000.

Three Deeds of arrangement were registered.

(c) FORESTS.

The area of reserved forests was reduced by about 13½ acres due to excisions from Tanjong Burong and Lumut Reserves in the Dindings and from Ramuan China Reserve in Malacca. The total area of reserved forests is now 111,505 acres, equivalent to 11.6 per cent of the total area of the Colony.

Revenue and expenditure were \$49,233 and \$48,742 respectively, compared with \$48,308 and \$44,293 in 1923, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowances. There was therefore a surplus of \$491, compared with \$4,015 in 1923. Revenue rose in Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca, and fell in the Dindings.

The outturn of timber was 13,004 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 32,026 tons, compared with 10,255 and 23,516 tons in the previous year. Minor forest produce yielded a revenue of \$3,517, compared with \$3,898 in 1923.

Breaches of the forest law were reported to the number of 153 cases in addition to 10 which were pending at the beginning of the year. The 153 cases reported included 24 in which the offenders were undetected. Of the 129 cases dealt with 42 were dealt with departmentally, 86 were taken to court, and 1 was pending at the end of the year. Fines inflicted in court amounted to \$1,821 in addition to \$31 awarded as compensation for damage to the forest. In the compounded cases a sum of \$837 was paid.

(d) AGRICULTURE.

Rubber.—At the beginning of January the price of standard rubber sheet was 49 cents per lb. On a weak market it fell steadily to 31½ cents in May. Early in the Autumn the price began to rise until 68 cents per lb. was reached in December. Estates have been maintained in good order and, generally, with considerable profit. A pleasing result of restriction of output is economy of bark consumption. Areas of old trees, heavily tapped in the past have been rested and the incentive to tap young rubber has been removed. Further more conservative tapping systems have been introduced in practically all producing fields. The result is that there are now throughout all rubber areas in the Colony excellent reserves of good tappable bark. With stocks reduced to something like normal proportions, an anticipated healthy increase in consumption, and labour conditions strengthened by the trials of recent years there would appear to be no excuse for pessimism regarding the immediate future of the rubber producing industry.

Combined pressure from District and Agricultural Officers has effected improvement in the general maintenance of small holdings in Malacca and in Province Wellesley. It has been found possible to give increased attention to weeding and disease treatment and for this purpose, in collaboration with District Officers, a system of routine inspection has been inaugurated and is working successfully. Nevertheless there are certain areas of small holdings, notably in Malacca, where neglect of cultivation or bad tapping, or frequently the two together have so affected the trees that their productive capacity has been seriously impaired. Furthermore as a general rule it can be stated that small holders have more frequently than large holders selected unsuitable (often swampy) land for rubber cultivation during the days of high prices. The productivity of such holdings is low and may be expected to become lower.

The only disease of rubber calling for any special comment is Mouldy Rot disease (*Sphaeronema fimbriatum*). This disease spread very considerably in Malacca during the year, outbreaks being recorded on four European-owned Estates. An outbreak on an Estate and a small holding in Singapore Island was reported and confirmed during the the month of September. This disease now occurs in various localities from Kedah to Singapore. It is not difficult to control. Adequate precautions have been taken in all cases.

Regular field instruction is given in the treatment of this disease and facilities are provided by the Department for the obtaining of the necessary disinfectants at cost price.

Coconuts.—The price of copra was \$12.50 per picul (133½ lbs.) at the beginning of the year and remained steady until the beginning of March when a decline began. After sinking to \$10.50 in April the price rose again with minor fluctuations to \$13.65 in the latter half of October. In November there was another sharp fall to \$11.40, followed by a rise to \$13 at the close of the year. The average price for the year was \$11.95 as compared with \$11.30 per picul in 1923. The price of nuts varied from 4 to 6 cents each. The price has been sufficient to render the industry prosperous, as it was in 1923.

It is noticeable that a large number of the palms in Penang and the Province are very old and bear very small crops. Many die of old age every month. Attention is being given, with success, to the planting of supplies.

A new factory to be known as the Central Oil Mills is in course of erection near Butterworth.

The Black Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) and the Red Stripe weevil (*Rhynchophorus schach*) still cause a considerable amount of damage in Penang, Province Wellesley and Singapore. This is due to the large accumulations of decaying coconut refuse that still remain to be destroyed. The burning of all such refuse is regularly enforced by the Inspecting Officers, but it will be some time before all the accumulations of past years are completely eliminated.

Other insect pests of coconuts have not been in evidence during the year. In Malacca squirrels cause a considerable loss of nuts. Steps are being taken to encourage the use of squirrel traps by owners of coconut holdings.

Padi.—In Malacca the crop harvested for the season 1923–1924 was satisfactory. Increased yields were reported from the Southern district. In Province Wellesley the crop was a little below the average on account of dry weather during the planting season and subsequent heavy floods.

The crop for the season 1924–1925 promises well in Malacca, though droughts delayed planting in some localities. There is a definite increase in the area planted with padi in Malacca this season. In Province Wellesley and Penang planting in 1924 was much delayed by a severe drought which began just after the first nurseries were established in June and July. In the majority of cases the nurseries had to be replanted in August. Floods followed the drought and damaged most of the earlier planted padi. The result will be late ripening and the crop may be light. There is, however, no failure.

Pure strains of padi distributed by the Agricultural Department have given somewhat uneven results in Malacca. There is considerable difference between the padi soils of Krian, where these strains were produced, and the inland soils of Malacca. It is therefore to be expected that the pure strains may take a few seasons to become acclimatised.

Although the success of these pure strains in non-coastal areas is at present somewhat qualified, there was a large demand both in Malacca and Province Wellesley for further supplies of seed for planting in 1924, as much as 1,350 gantangs (gallons) being distributed in Malacca. Records of distribution and of yield are being maintained. Test plots under departmental supervision are maintained in Province Wellesley and at the Pulau Gadong Experiment Station in Malacca.

The soil at the Pulau Gadong Padi Experiment Station in Malacca has improved with regular cultivation. The land was found to be extremely acid when first prepared and had to be dressed with lime before use. The cultivated area of the Station is now 25 acres, a new area of 7 acres having been added to the 18 acres used in 1923. The padi looks well and promises a good crop.

Tests of selected pure line padis from Krian are in progress at this Station and indicate that certain strains may be successful. It has been found, however, that the Krian strains are less able to withstand high soil acidity than are the local Malacca padis.

Cultivation experiments have been commenced and are progressing satisfactorily. The experience of a few seasons will, however, be needed before definite conclusions can be made for instructional purposes.

Flots have been established at this Station for the selection of pure line strains of certain of the Negri Sembilan and Malacca varieties by the methods used for isolating the pure strains in Krian. It will be about 6 years before the local pure strains are ready for distribution, but this line of work can confidently be expected to give valuable results.

Manurial plots have been laid down at the Malacca Experiment Station and similar plots have been established in Province Wellesley. Valuable information will thus be obtained, as the determination of a suitable cheap manure for padi fields is a matter of the utmost importance.

Other than Stem-borers which did considerable damage to the flowering padi at the Malacca Experiment Station in December and were to be found fairly commonly in other parts of Malacca insect pests were not much in evidence. Rats have, as usual, done considerable damage. The distribution of barium carbonate is being continued and the use of other methods of rat destruction encouraged. This poison appears to give rather varying results and there is considerable difference of opinion among Malays as to its efficacy. A special campaign against rats in Krian District of Perak, organised towards the close of the year, may be expected to provide experience that can be utilised generally in the coming year.

OTHER CROPS.

Cloves and Nutmegs.—Vigorous encouragement by the District Officer, Balik Pulau, with the co-operation of Agricultural Officers has brought about a revival of interest in these two crops which at one time provided valuable exports from Penang and Province Wellesley. As an encouragement the assessment on rubber land partly planted with cloves and nutmegs has been reduced and already a great deal of unproductive and poorly cultivated rubber has been cut out to make room for the planting of spices. The establishment of co-operative societies among spice growers is under consideration. Officers of the Department are carrying on investigations with a view to controlling the pests and diseases which have been so largely responsible for the decline of the spice industry in the past. The measures taken to restore this

useful minor industry have met with some degree of success as the following short tables show:—

The export of cloves for the last three years has been as follows:—

<i>Pikuls Exported.</i>				
1922	...	...	...	276
1923	...	...	...	462
1924	...	...	...	573

For the last two years the exports of nutmegs and mace have been:—

NUTMEGS.			MACE.
<i>Pikuls Exported.</i>			<i>Pikuls Exported.</i>
1923	...	288	97
1924	...	1,632	232

Fruits.—In Penang and Province Wellesley the fruit crop was fair, in Malacca it was poor. The supply of locally grown fruit in the Colony is inadequate to meet the demand. Much of that grown in Malacca, as well as in other parts of the Peninsula, is sent to Singapore where it fetches high prices and the supply to the Malacca market is not as good as it was. Action is being taken to increase the supply of fruit planting material.

Cotton.—The plot of Egyptian Cotton planted in Malacca in 1923 failed completely, the soil being, apparently, unsuitable. During the last quarter of this year six small trial plots were planted in different parts of Province Wellesley with a strain of Egyptian cotton. The plants have grown fairly well and give promise of a crop, but considerable damage has been done by a leaf-roller (*Sylepta derogata*) which, though easily controlled by hand picking on these small plots, might prove very difficult to control on a large area.

Fodder grasses.—Towards the end of the year, on the suggestion of the Superintendent of Prisons, Penang, experimental plots of fodder and pasture grasses were planted in the Gaol grounds Penang, where labour is easily obtained. The object is to discover which grasses give the best crops and can be easily and cheaply established. Results from these plots are not yet available.

Miscellaneous.—Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is becoming very prevalent in drains and waterways in Province Wellesley and is spreading in Malacca. The

advisability of introducing legislation to enforce its destruction is under consideration.

The Exhibits prepared for the Agricultural Section of the Malaya Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition arrived in good order. These were representative of existing agricultural products and of other products which might be successfully cultivated in this country.

(e) LAND.

(i).—LAND TENURE.

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 999-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town were issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under these titles, which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent, the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but it has now been decided to restrict in future the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang.—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, as in Singapore, by grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases and Statutory Grants are being substituted for Permits and Expired Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of land in the town of Malacca has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch. Occupied land in the country is, in some cases, held either under grant or lease from the Crown, but for the most part according to customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for alienation of foreshore.

The principal land revenue consists of rents on rubber land, and of mukim assessment on land held under customary tenure.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE.

The Revenue in 1924 was thus distributed:—

—		Land Revenue.	Reimburse- ments.	Land Sales.	Total.
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Singapore ...	{ 1923	344,161	15,787	58,845	418,793
	{ 1924	335,918	20,613	43,145	399,676
Penang ...	{ 1923	239,059	37,041	19,489	295,589
	{ 1924	229,996	21,147	10,486	261,629
Malacca ...	{ 1923	671,900	10,023	51,511	733,434
	{ 1924	655,650	9,200	98,797	763,647
Labuan ...	{ 1923	4,788	1,723	49	6,560
	{ 1924	4,209	1,226	209	5,644
Total ...	{ 1923	1,259,908	64,574	129,894	1,454,376
	{ 1924	1,225,773	52,186	152,637	1,430,596

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued during the last five years together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Singapore.</i>					
Area granted ...	340 3 34	454 2 17	731 1 07	1,7 3 0 04	1,355 0 27
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ...	131,908	49,766	84,822	123,743	46,139
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	88	30	114	64	57
Premia paid ...	\$1,780,736	\$92,308	\$188,476	\$131,476.00	\$70,399.00
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Penang.</i>					
Area granted ...	556 3 00	824 1 05	2,689 1 28	525 3 24	1,284 1 22
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ...	Nil.	12,357	Nil.	Nil.	155
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	83	84	394	127	146 S. Grants (& 5.99 years' Leases.)
Premia paid ...	\$15,422.00	\$11,061.50	\$26,555.50	\$12,978.16	\$18,464.00
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Malacca.</i>					
Area granted ...	1,919 2 38	1,590 1 32	1,124 0 31	2,348 0 16.96	2,712 2 18.64
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ..	15,957	6,522	21,600	Nil.	59,350½
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	108	39	116	273	127 & 1 Lease
Premia paid ...	\$50,170	\$42,790	\$52,843.00	\$72,345.00	\$202,830 00
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
<i>Labuan.</i>					
Area granted ...	1,403 1 26	185 0 16	228 3 09	59 2 35	135 0 20
.. Town Lots ...	...	5 0 00	Nil.	Nil.	0 0 24½
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	290	221	Nil.	91	50
		(190 new Grants, 15 in exchange for old titles & 16 sub-division grants.)		(55 new Grants, 17 sub-division Grants, 19 in exchange for old grants.)	(23 new Grants, 25 Sub-division Grants and 2 in exchange for old grants)
Premia paid ...	\$1,027.64	\$422.60	\$114.90	\$49.40	\$209.20

(f) FISHERIES.

It was decided to order a new experimental fisheries vessel designed to meet Malayan local requirements rather than purchase a second-hand trawler and have it modified. The new vessel should commence work before the close of 1925. Some buildings of a temporary nature have been taken over by the fishery department and are being adapted for use as an experimental station. It is proposed to test therein the suitability and adaptability of the methods employed in other countries in the cure and preservation of fish and other products of marine commerce. An experiment in canning on a very small scale of the tiny anchovy (*Stolephorus*) which is so abundant in these waters, proved that it canned well and was of good flavour.

An attempt to compare the prices as obtained in auction at Billingsgate (London) and Clyde Terrace (Singapore), of fish of an equivalent nature, showed that as far as fish so dissimilar can be considered to be equivalent, twice as much is paid in Singapore as London for fish and half as much for prawns, shrimps, etc.

III.—Legislation.

Twenty-two Ordinances were passed during the year 1924. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and thirteen were purely Amending Ordinances.

The most important of the Ordinances which are not Amending Ordinances are:—

- (i) The Cinematograph Films Ordinance (No. 4) which provides for the control of the exhibition of undesirable cinematograph films, public or private, and of undesirable pictures advertising such films.
- (ii) The Explosives Substances Ordinance (No. 6) which for the purpose of suppressing crimes of violence imposes an adequate penalty for manufacturing, keeping or using explosives with intent to endanger life or property.
- (iii) The Savings Certificates Ordinance (No. 7) which provides for the issue of Savings Certificates as a facility for savings.

- (iv) The Fisheries Ordinance (No. 11) which provides for the conservation of fish in the waters of the Colony by establishing close times for fishing, by prohibiting certain methods of fishing, and by prohibiting the capture of immature fish.
- (v) The Dentists' Registration Ordinance (No. 13) which is designed to provide for the control of the practice of dentistry in the Colony. It is based upon the English Acts 1878 to 1923.
- (vi) The Co-operative Societies Ordinance (No. 21) which provides for the constitution, registration and management of Co-operative Societies. It is based upon the Federated Malay States Enactment No. 7 of 1922 which in turn was based upon the Indian Co-operative Societies Act of 1912.

The principal Amending Ordinances are:—

- (i) The Public Officers' Guarantee Fund (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which limits the liability of the fund to cases of personal negligence or inefficiency of an officer and revises the procedure for recovery of monies.
- (ii) The Agricultural Pests (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) which gives power to Agricultural Inspectors to sanction prosecution in order to avoid unnecessary delay.
- (iii) The Traction Engine and Motor Cars (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which relieves motor car dealers of the necessity of taking out a licence for every car held by them merely for sale.
- (iv) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 5) which provides that every British and foreign local-trade steamer over 125 tons should have in addition a third class gunner on board.
- (v) The Ports (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 8) which allows certain officers of the Harbour Boards to participate fully in the Harbour Boards' Provident Fund.
- (vi) The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which allows certain officers to retire at 45 instead of at 50 years of age.
- (vii) The Theatres (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) which empowers the Governor in Council to decide by notification in the *Gazette* which side-shows should come within the definition of the word "theatre".

- (viii) The Vagrancy (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12) which is designed to exclude from the Colony vagrants who have been repatriated from any of the Federated Malay States.
- (ix) The Inventions (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15) which gives a patentee in the United Kingdom the right to have his patent registered in the Colony and to have all the privileges which attach to a patent originally obtained in the Colony.
- (x) The Rubber Dealers (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17) which allows the Governor to exempt from the operation of the principal Ordinance certain persons who were never really intended to come within the operation of the principal Ordinance.
- (xi) The Federated Malay States Export Duties (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18) which allows a charge for goods stored for over 48 hours to be collected in the Colony as a part of export duty by the Federated Malay States Government.
- (xii) The Fire Insurance Companies (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 20) which permits a representative of a firm which is a member of Lloyds doing business in fire insurance in the Colony.

IV.—Communications.

(a) POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

A. Letters addressed to foreign countries	... {	First oz. ...	12 cents.
		each succeeding oz. ...	6 ..
B. Letters addressed to places in the British Empire except those places named in C.	... {	Per oz. ...	6 ..
C. Letters addressed to places in the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Johore, North Borneo, Sarawak, Brunei, Trengganu and Kemaman ...	... {	First two ozs. ...	5 cents.
		each succeeding ounce or fraction thereof ...	1 cent.

D. Postcards addressed to :—

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----------|
| (i) Foreign countries | ... | ... | 8 cents. |
| (ii) Places in the British Empire except those
named in C | ... | ... | 4 " |
| (iii) Countries named in C | ... | ... | 2 " |

E. Printed papers, for every two ozs. ... 3 "

except that the rate of postage on a newspaper—

(a) printed and published within the Straits Settlements or in any British Possession or Protected State in Malaya; or

(b) registered as a newspaper at the General Post Office, London, if posted in the Straits Settlements addressed to any place in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, Trengganu (including Kemaman), North Borneo, Sarawak or Brunei, is 2 cents for any weight not exceeding 4 ounces, and 2 cents for any additional weight provided that no enclosure which is not part of the newspaper or a supplement thereto is enclosed with the newspaper. If two or more copies are sent in a single packet, each newspaper shall be liable to the same postage as if posted separately, but in no case shall a packet of such newspapers be chargeable with a higher rate than that chargeable on a packet of printed papers of the same weight.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 14,797,000, an average of 15.82 per inhabitant, as against 18.09, the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 11,723,497, as compared with 12,143,922 in 1923. The number of messages forwarded over Government Telegraph lines during the year 1924 was 451,366 as compared with 453,859 in 1923, whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph lines was 356,415 as compared with 336,778 in 1923. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges increased from 1,069 to 1,142.

The amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1924, was \$2,524,467.94 an increase of 15 per cent as compared with the amount on December 31st, 1923. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was \$201.15. There was a profit on the year's working of \$45,395.37. The estimated present value of the investments is \$2,581,531.61 (these figures are subject to revision after audit).

In addition to the General Post Office, Singapore, and the Chief Post Offices, at Penang, Malacca, and Labuan, there are 41 Sub-offices in the Colony, including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Panjang and Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Tassek Glugor, Penanti, Pinang Tunggal, and Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley), Tebong (Malacca). Of these 25 are Telegraph Offices.

The operation of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1924 to \$5,273,469.09, the principal business done being with India, Federated Malay States, Great Britain, Netherlands East India, United States of America and Ceylon.

Ten Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	... 5,	thence to Madras	(3)
		„ „ Colombo	(2)
		„ „ Deli	(1)
Batavia	... 1,	thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	... 1,	thence to Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	... 1,	Direct.	
Cochin China	... 1,	thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	... 1,	thence to Hongkong	(1).

There are also Government telegraph lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca, and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *via* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. There are 616 miles of telegraph lines, 34 miles of submarine cable between Penang and Province Wellesley containing 89 miles of wire and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile between Singapore and Johore containing $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire. There are 2,129 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of Telephone Line in Penang and Province Wellesley and 1,318 miles in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

(b) COMMUNICATION BY SEA.

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India Steamers *via* Madras and Bombay, and by the Peninsular and Oriental vessels; and fortnightly services by the Messageries Maritimes *via* Ceylon; in addition there is a weekly service by the Steamship Company Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and at frequent intervals by the Holts, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese

and other lines; with China and Japan a fortnightly service by the P. & O. and M. M. lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and monthly by Chargeurs-Reunis; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong and by Spanish Packets and British Packets direct; with Bangkok by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Nederlands India ports by Nederlands India Company's steamers; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philp, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australia Steam Navigation Company, Austral East Indies Line, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence of Orient Packets; with Madras (direct), and other ports on the Coromandel Coasts fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers, and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Apcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above, there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc., by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 23 to 26 days. Services are now normal.

(c) RAILWAYS.

A Railway traverses the Colony from Singapore to Woodlands, thence *viâ* a Causeway across the Johore Straits (which was opened for traffic in October, 1923) into the State of Johore and Federated Malay States, the main line affording direct communication to Seremban, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Prai. From the latter place connection to Penang is maintained by steam ferry.

There is a branch line from Gemas on the Southern border of the State of Negri Sembilan to Chigar Perah in the State of Pahang, portions of this line now under construction, will, when completed, enable direct communication to be made with Singapore and the States of Kelantan and Siam.

There are feeder lines to the various ports of the Malay States connecting with the main line, and in addition a line runs from Prai in the north to Padang Besar, where connection is made with the Royal State Railways of Siam enabling passenger and goods traffic between the Federated Malay States and Siam to be conveyed direct by rail.

Ocean borne traffic is dealt with at the ports of Penang, Prai, Port Swettenham and Singapore, whilst coastwise shipping may in addition be dealt with at Port Weld, Teluk Anson, Port Dickson and Malacca.

(d) ROADS.

The metalled roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) total 513·2 miles distributed as follows :— Singapore 99·6 miles; Penang and Dindings 88·6 miles; Province Wellesley 171 miles; Malacca 147·2 miles and Labuan 6·9 miles.

In addition there are 266·8 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path maintained in the various Settlements.

Of the 513·2 miles of metalled road 216 miles are surfaced with asphalt.

During 1924 in Singapore about $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles of road were converted from laterite to granite surface and a further 5 miles of surface asphalted.

In Penang the road from Tanjong Tokong to Tanjong Bungah was widened and the road to Sungei Nibong was remetalled and asphalted.

In Province Wellesley $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles of road were reconstructed and $23\frac{1}{2}$ miles asphalted.

In Malacca close on 11 miles were reconstructed in granite.

(e) PUBLIC WORKS.

In Singapore good progress was made with the construction of the New General Hospital and Medical College and with the foundations for the New Post Office.

Designs for Raffles College on the Economic Gardens site were considered and the work of construction was placed in the hands of the author of the design, which gained the first award.

In Penang land for a new secondary school to accommodate 600 pupils at Green Lane was cleared and houses for the European staff nearly completed.

In Province Wellesley land was cleared for a new English School at Bukit Mertajam to provide for 480 pupils.

Plans were completed for an additional water supply of one million gallons per day for Malacca. The water is to be conveyed 37 miles from a reservoir site on the western slopes of Mount Ophir in Johore.

V.—Immigration.**(i).—CHINESE.**

The total number of immigrants from China arriving in the Colony during 1924 was 181,430, an increase of 14 per cent over the figure for 1923 but less than that for 1911, the highest year, by 88,424 or 32.7 per cent.

Adult males formed 69.8 per cent and adult females 15.3 per cent of the immigrants.

The number of emigrants returning to China during 1924 was 87,749 thus leaving an excess of immigrants over emigrants of 93,681 or 51.6 per cent.

The increase is to be ascribed partly to the improvement in the tin and rubber industries in Malaya, but chiefly to the continuation of disturbed conditions resulting from civil war in the two Kwang provinces and the province of Hokkien, which are the chief sources of emigration; where means permitted emigrants have brought their whole families with them to the "South Seas", and during the year under review 54,720 women and children arrived in the Colony, this figure constituting a record.

(ii).—SOUTHERN INDIANS.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 62,052 as compared with 49,502 in 1923.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 37,326 as against 42,778 in 1923.

The figures for arrivals for the last four years are as follows:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	—	—	—	—
Assisted immigrants	15,413	38,336	30,234	43,147
Other immigrants ...	30,260	20,338	19,268	18,905
	<u>45,673</u>	<u>58,674</u>	<u>49,502</u>	<u>62,052</u>

The assisted immigrants consisted of 37,109 adults and 6,038 minors. Of the adults 27,944 were men and 9,165 were women.

The health of estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was very satisfactory during the year, the death-rate in Province Wellesley being 14.26 per mille, and in the

Dindings 6·87 per mille. The death-rate on estates in Penang was only 3·29 per mille.

During 1924, 1,699 adult and 333 minor decrepit and destitute Indians were assisted with a passage back to India.

The assessment rate was fixed at \$2 for the first quarter; \$2 for the second quarter; 50 cents for the third quarter and \$2 for the fourth quarter.

The Indian Immigration Fund receipts amounted to \$1,318,551·77 and the expenditure was \$1,355,764·35, the difference being met by a corresponding decrease in Cash balances.

(iii).—NETHERLANDS INDIAN.

The number of Netherlands Indian labourers on estates in the Colony is 2,256. No contracts under the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908, are in force.

VI.—Criminal and Police.

The total number of seizable offences reported to the Police during 1924 was 6,813 of which 6,465 were admitted as true. Of the admitted reports 3,489 resulted in cases which were dealt with by the Police Courts, District Courts, or Supreme Courts, convictions being obtained in 2,250 cases. In respect of serious offences against property there was a decrease of 12 in the number of murders, and a decrease of 9 in the number of reports of attempted murder. There was also a decrease of 72 in the number of reports of causing hurt with dangerous weapons. As regards offences against property there was a decrease of 10 in the number of robberies, a decrease of 22 in the number of gang robberies, a decrease of 38 in the number of reports of housebreaking and a decrease of 3 in the number of reports of theft. There were 44,896 non-seizable offences reported to the Police in 1924. The number of persons arrested in connection with reports both seizable and non-seizable was 29,014 males and 625 females. There was an increase of 8 cases in the number of Extortion.

Secret Societies.—During the past year the Secret Societies were not so conspicuous as they have been in the past owing to the preventive action which was taken against the leaders and important members by the Chinese Protectorate and the Police Department. Systematic patrols prevented any outbreaks on a large scale. Retaliation occurred in some cases by murders of individuals, this being particularly noticeable in the case of hostilities between the members of two Tiechiu factions.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,194 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore, Penang and Malacca); 4,404 were admitted during the year as compared with 4,083 during 1923 and 4,289 were discharged during the year. 1,309 remained at the end of the year. There were 150 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 948 were admitted and 1,025 were discharged. Of the 1,025 vagrants discharged 59 found employment and 844 were repatriated.

“Middle-grade” prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, weaving, tile-making and mat and basket-making.

The “Upper-grade” men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the “Lower-grade” men at husk-beating, and the “Short-sentence” and “Revenue-grade” men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Medical Department.

A. VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population for 1924 is estimated on that of the census of 1921. The distribution is:—

	1923. <i>Estimated.</i>	1924. <i>Estimated.</i>
Singapore	... 457,571	474,817
Penang	... 310,781	315,841
Malacca	... 160,886	170,294

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The number of births registered during the year was 31,028 and the number of deaths was 26,358. The births this year exceed the deaths in all Settlements; the crude birth-rate 32.29 per thousand, as compared with 30.59 in the previous year, is the highest on record.

The percentage of males born was 52.24, females 47.76. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 40.33 per thousand amongst Malays.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 204.76 per thousand births as against 208.96 in the previous year.

The training of midwives of all nationalities is being actively continued.

The number of deaths returned as due to infantile convulsions, was 3,832 as against 3,484 in the previous year. Dietetic errors, Tetanus and Malaria are the common causes of convulsions.

The crude death-rate, 27.42 per thousand of population, as against 27.80 in the year 1923, is the lowest on record.

The highest racial death-rate was 29.45 amongst Malays; the lowest 7.82 amongst Europeans as against 8.82 in the previous year.

Pneumonia accounted for 1,669 deaths as against 1,710 in the previous year: only 162 deaths were registered as due to Influenza.

The actual population in 1911 was 711,951 and deaths from Beri-beri 2,056. The estimated population in 1918 was 827,719, and deaths from Beri-beri 1,958. The deaths from Beri-beri in the following three years, when food control was in operation, and the use of overmilled rice as a staple article of diets was diminished, were 1,430, 1,025 and 1,299 respectively.

In the latter year the census population was 881,939.

The deaths from Beri-beri in the last three years, 1922, 1923 and 1924 were 1,388, 904 and 910 respectively. The estimated population in 1924 is 960,952. The diminution is probably due in part to the spread of knowledge as to the necessity for a varied diet.

Malaria and tuberculosis were responsible for 3,462 and 2,389 deaths respectively as compared with 3,430 and 2,683 deaths in 1923. Fever unclassified was responsible for 2,706 deaths as against 3,064 deaths in 1923.

Dysentery caused 842 deaths classified as follows:—

Dysentery, Amoebic	...	211
„ Bacillary	...	197
„ Unclassified	...	434
		<hr/>
		842
		<hr/>

against 839 deaths in the previous year.

Diarrhoea contributed 532 deaths as compared with 411 in 1923.

Infectious Disease—there were 8 deaths from Small-pox, 8 deaths from Cholera and 19 deaths from Plague, excluding deaths in Maritime quarantine stations.

CLIMATE.

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore for 1924, was 79.7° F; in Penang 80.9° F; in Province Wellesley 82.3° F; and in Malacca 82.8° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 84.4° and 76.5° F. The maximum recorded was 92° on 6th March at Singapore. The minimum was 70° F. on December 10th. The grass minimum in Singapore was 67° F. in December.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rain-fall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1912 to 1921, it is found in Singapore, that there is an annual average of 172 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 2,555 m.m. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1913 with 3442.37 m.m. and the driest was 1877, with 1482.7 m.m. The average for the sixty-one years is 2396.5 m.m. The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time, viz:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1923.	1924.
	—	—
Singapore	... 1981.50	2588.78
Penang	... 3443.00	2954.00
Malacca	... 2407.00	2323.00
Province Wellesley	... 2612.75	2317.75
Labuan	... 2957.80	2946.50

B. HEALTH BRANCH.**PORT HEALTH.**

One thousand four hundred and thirty-three visits were paid to ships in Singapore and 461 visits to ships in Penang, by Port Health Officers, who examined 623,355 persons. 67,754 persons were retained under observation in the two quarantine stations, mostly for short periods.

Nearly 11,000,000 tons of shipping entered Singapore, which is at present the sixth port in the world. The number of persons from ships treated for dangerous infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station was 29, treatment in all cases being for Small-pox.

In the Penang Quarantine Station 151 cases of Cholera from ships were treated with 68 deaths. No cases of Plague or Cerebro-spinal Fever were admitted to either Station from ships.

RURAL CONSERVANCY.

The sanitation of rural areas was continued in all parts of the Colony, and the result is reflected in the reduced death-rate.

An arrangement was concluded with the Rockefeller Foundation for a preliminary hook-worm survey of the Straits Settlements, with a view to commencing a joint three years Hook-worm and Rural Sanitation Campaign in 1925. The expenses of this work are to be shared by the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Government of the Straits Settlements.

ANTI-MALARIAL WORK.

The sum of \$108,396.78 was expended on anti-mosquito and anti-malarial measures, mostly permanent drainage and filling, in the Settlements of Singapore and Penang.

Mosquito surveys were carried out in various parts of the Settlement of Malacca with a view to undertaking permanent works there in the coming year.

C. KING EDWARD THE VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE.

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 173, and the number of students 122.

The course of instruction laid down by the General Medical Council of Great Britain in 1923 has been introduced

and the medical curriculum now extends over a period of six years. The standard of instruction and examination is in accordance with the requirements of the General Medical Council, and the licence of the School can be registered in Great Britain.

A Hostel for the accommodation of Senior Medical Students has been erected at Tan Tock Seng Hospital and it is intended that in future every student shall, in addition to his clinical and surgical clerkships, and maternity course, spend one year as a resident pupil in this hospital, before he is admitted to the final examinations.

Dr. A. L. HOOPS, Principal Civil Medical Officer, was the guest of the Rockefeller Foundation during the month of September, 1924, when he visited Johns Hopkins and Harvard Medical Schools, and also the headquarters of the United States Public Health Service at Washington, and inspected various public health activities in the United States of America.

During this visit preliminary arrangements were made in connection with the grant by the Rockefeller Foundation, of an endowment of \$350,000 for the institution of Chairs of Bacteriology and Bio-chemistry in the College of Medicine. An agreement has now been concluded in accordance with the terms of which the Government of the Straits Settlements will provide the additional sum necessary to bring the salaries of the Professors appointed to these Chairs up to the same scale as that of the other professors of the College and will institute a Chair of Biology.

The Rockefeller Foundation makes no claim to a voice in the appointment of lecturers, or in the future direction of the College.

The Singapore Medical College will be the first College in the continent of Asia to possess an independent professor of Bio-chemistry, a subject which has now grown too vast for the professor of Physiology to handle.

D. HOSPITALS.

Forty-one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six in-patients were treated in the hospitals of the Colony, the death-rate being the lowest recorded in the past 5 years, 9.62 per cent.

Five thousand one hundred and thirty-five cases of Malaria with 312 deaths, and 4,362 cases of venereal diseases with 145 deaths, were received as in-patients. In both cases the percentage mortality shows an improvement.

E. DISPENSARIES.

Out-patients numbered 91,585 and attendances 152,456, more than double the figures for the year 1921. Out-patients treated for venereal disease numbered 18,994 against 6,476 in the previous year.

Out-patient injections for Yaws numbered 14,812.

There were 24,115 attendances at the Women's and Children's Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, under the direction of Lady Medical Officer Mrs. L. S. O'MAY.

In March, a travelling motor dispensary was provided in Malacca and treated 10,562 patients to the end of the year, including 2,950 cases of Yaws, 343 cases of Syphilis, and 1,314 of Scabies.

F. LEPERS.

The total number of lepers treated in our Leper Asylums was 891 and the total deaths 150.

Modern treatment is now generally accepted. The result since 1921 has been a steady fall in the death-rate, and a continuous increase in the numbers.

Over 5 per cent of the Lepers appear outwardly free of the disease, and one half per cent are bacteriologically negative.

Provision is being continued for the better housing of lepers, and for their occupation in healthy out-door pursuits chiefly agricultural.

Under conditions which will eliminate any risk of their being a source of infection to others, lepers, whose means permit, are now allowed to remain in their own homes under treatment.

G. MENTAL DISEASES HOSPITALS.

The number of patients treated in these institutions during the year was 746 males and 135 females, and the number remaining at the end of the year was 496 males and 97 females. The present buildings are unsuited for modern treatment and considerably over-crowded.

The building of a modern mental diseases settlement on Trafalgar Estate where a large area has been acquired is to be commenced in the coming year.

VIII.—Education.

There were 14 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 6,250 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was \$662,081.

There were 30 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 14,222 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to \$595,484.

The expenditure on the 209 Government Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 16,890 was \$422,439.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 9 Aided Vernacular Schools with an average enrolment of 765. The grants to which for 1924 amounted to \$7,963.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,344 as against 1,092 in 1922 and 1,143 in 1923.

Thirty-six students passed the final examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, compared with 37 in 1923.

There were 12 student teachers from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hongkong University at Government expense. On their return they are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools.

Eleven candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived last year for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. Two candidates from Penang passed as fit in the opinion of the examining body to study for an honours' degree at Oxford or Cambridge. One proposes to study Law and one Engineering.

The recent improvement of the salary scheme at last began to attract European recruits for the Education Department. During the year seven European masters appointed to the Malay Educational service were allocated to the Colony, but the agreement of one of the existing staff was terminated. Three new European mistresses were allocated to the Straits Settlements.

The appointment of an Art Master for Singapore and of a Physical Instructor for the Colony has led to marked improvements in those branches of the school curriculum.

A new elementary school for boys at Rangoon Road, Singapore, was opened. Two buildings were rented for English schools in Penang.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils was extended with results, whose value can hardly yet be estimated.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to make good progress. A good type of student attended, most of them from business houses and offices. 322 enrolled as against 239 in 1923. Eleven students passed the May examination of the London Chamber of Commerce. Forty-seven sat for the November examination but the result is as yet unknown. There were 30 students in the advanced classes in Chemistry and Physics.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of \$31,183.

At the beginning of the year two new posts were created in the Malayan Civil Service, Assistant Director of Education for Chinese Schools, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States (Class III) and Inspector of Chinese Schools, Straits Settlements (Class V), to take over the work of registration and inspection of Chinese Schools from the Chinese Protectorate.

The Colony's total expenditure on this branch of the Education Department was \$10,144.

Ninety-seven Certificates for Chinese schools and 384 Certificates for Chinese Teachers were issued during the year and 51 Chinese schools struck off the Register as having ceased to exist. At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 292 with 732 teachers and 15,301 pupils.

Four Chinese schools in Singapore received grants-in-aid during 1924 amounting to \$2,508; in Penang two received grants amounting to \$3,716.

Raffles College.—The accounts showed at the end of 1924 \$1,460,870 to the credit of the General Fund and the funds for Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing \$1,000,000 towards the cost of building. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to \$63,000 per annum have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years, amounting to \$655,000, have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

During the year the competition for designs for the new College Buildings closed. Mr. JOHN BEGG, F.R.I.B.A., late Consulting Architect to the Government of India, was Assessor and awarded the first premium to Messrs. C. A. FAREY and G. A. DAWBARN, of London. Mr. DAWBARN visited Singapore and consulted the Acting Principal and the Committee as to his design. The building of administrative and science blocks, a hostel and quarters for the staff has been authorised and should commence in 1925.

Mr. R. O. WINSTEDT, M.A., D. LITT. (OXON.), Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, continued to act as Principal. The College is administered by an Executive Committee.

IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year under review may be considered on the whole satisfactory and the Colony continues to remain in a sound financial position. The effects of the disastrous slump are wearing off and the Colony is on the high road to complete recovery. There was a fall in the price of rubber during the months of March, April, May and June and this was regarded by many as an indication of a return to the depression prevailing during the slump. Towards the end of the year however there was a recovery and at the time of writing the price exceeds \$1 a pound.

The restriction of the production of rubber remained in force and in spite of the criticisms of its opponents this policy appears to have amply justified itself, though there were not lacking those who during the period March—June considered that it had definitely failed.

Tin the other staple product of Malaya maintained a price which afforded ample profit, though in common with rubber the price fell during the second quarter of the year.

The year was noteworthy on account of the introduction into the Colony for the first time in a practical form of the principle of representative Government. Under the Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet dated 18th August, 1924, the right was given to the Chambers of Commerce of Singapore and Penang each to elect a member to serve on the Legislative Council of the Colony.

Sir FREDERICK SETON JAMES, K.B.E., C.M.G., who was appointed Colonial Secretary of the Colony in 1916, departed from the Colony in March to take up his appointment as Governor of the Windward Islands. Sir FREDERICK assumed his duties in the Colony during the Great War and during its continuance and during the post-war period had

problems of exceptional difficulty to face. His record is one of capable, sympathetic and fearless administration, and his departure is a great loss to the Colony.

Mr. EDWARD SHAW HOSE, C.M.G., was appointed Colonial Secretary in succession to Sir FREDERICK JAMES.

Mr. F. M. BADDELEY, Under Secretary, Straits Settlements was appointed Chief Secretary of Nigeria and proceeded from the Colony in September to take up his appointment.

An event of exceptional interest was the visit to Malaya in February of the Special Service Squadron. The ships were visited by thousands of sight-seers of all nationalities. It was unfortunate that the visit was somewhat marred by a spell of exceptionally wet weather which however did not seriously interfere with the programme of entertainment.

In September HIS MAJESTY THE KING of Siam honoured the Colony with a visit.

Work on the roadway over the Johore Causeway was completed and the Causeway was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 28th June.

H. MARRIOTT,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

25th June, 1925.

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GIBRALTAR.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1173 and 1217 (Price 6d each)).



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No. 1266.

GIBRALTAR.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Gibraltar is a narrow peninsula three miles in length and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in breadth, with a total area of $1\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, situated in latitude $36^{\circ} 7' 16''$ North and longitude $5^{\circ} 21' 13''$ West, near the southern extremity of Spain, being joined to the mainland by a low sandy isthmus. It consists of a long high mountain, the ridge of which, from north to south, divides it into two unequal parts. The extreme height of the "Rock," as the mountain is commonly called, is 1,396 feet. The town is built on the western and southern sides, which face the Bay. The northern and eastern faces of the Rock are an inaccessible cliff, forming a series of rugged precipices at the foot of which, on the eastern side, confronting the Mediterranean, stands the small fishing village of Catalan Bay.

HISTORICAL.

Gibraltar was known to the ancients as Mons Calpe, one of the Pillars of Hercules, the other being Mount Abyla, or Apes Hill, on the opposite coast of Africa. It was possessed successively by the Phœnicians, the Carthaginians, the Romans, and the Visigoths, but remained uninhabited till the Mohammedan invasion of Spain.

In 711 the Moorish Chief, Tarik-Ibn-Zeyad, landed on the Rock, and gave it the name of Gibel-Tarik, or Mountain of Tarik, of which the name of Gibraltar is a corruption. It remained in Moorish hands until 1309, when it was seized by the Spaniards.

In 1333 it was again taken by the Moors, but was wrested from the Moslem dynasty in 1462, and reverted to the dominion of Spain.

In 1704 it was captured by the British forces under Admiral Sir George Rooke during the war of the Spanish Succession, and was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, renewed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783. Many attempts have been made to retake Gibraltar, especially during the great siege in 1779-83, when General Elliot (afterwards Lord Heathfield) defended it against the united forces of Spain and France, but all have been unsuccessful, and it has remained in British hands since its capture in 1704.

The Government is administered under Letters Patent of the 12th September, 1922, by a Governor aided by an Executive

Council composed of four official and three unofficial members. The power of legislation is vested in the Governor, who is also the General Commanding the Garrison.

CLIMATE.

The general climate of Gibraltar is mild and temperate, though somewhat hot and oppressive during the months of July and August. The meteorological record for 1924 shows 70·38° F. as the mean maximum temperature, the highest shade temperature being 91° on the 17th July and 19th August, and the lowest 38° on the 28th February. The rainy season spreads over the period from September to May; the annual average rainfall is 35 in., but in 1924 44 in. were registered, of which 15·17 in. fell in February.

1. General Observations.

During the year under review the number of vessels calling at Gibraltar showed a satisfactory increase on the previous year, but trade conditions remained slack on the whole. The enterprise displayed by a local firm in establishing an oil-fuelling depot by means of hulks has borne fruit, and a number of vessels were able to re-fuel at this port in consequence. It is to be hoped that arrangements will be made in the near future to supply heavier oil to meet the demands of the increasing number of motor-driven vessels. Gibraltar is undoubtedly one of the most convenient ports in the world for bunkering, and coal or oil can be supplied expeditiously at any time of the day or night. Arrangements have been made for the mail steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to enter the Admiralty Harbour and land passengers near Ragged Staff, instead of, as formerly, lying out in the Bay.

The first triennial period of the City Council expired this year, and fresh elections were held on the 1st December, resulting in the return, in three out of the four wards, of candidates representing the Workers' Union. On the 28th November His Excellency the Governor formally opened the new City Hall—a fine building in the centre of the city, formerly known as Connaught House, which was acquired a few years ago by the Government and transferred to the City Council for use as headquarters. The ceremony was largely attended, and after the new Hall had been declared open those present, at the invitation of the Chairman and Councillors, inspected the premises which had been newly decorated and furnished and converted most satisfactorily into suitable council rooms, offices, &c.

Gibraltar sent home early in the year a number of interesting exhibits which were displayed at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. The exhibits were confined to objects of historic interest, as this Colony has practically no local industries and no agriculture.

A contingent of Gibraltar Boy Scouts took part in the Jamboree at Wembley and spent several weeks in England.

In July the Moorish Consulate at Gibraltar, which had been in existence for more than 60 years, was closed, Moroccan interests being entrusted to the French Consul.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated total civil population of Gibraltar at the close of 1924 was 17,324, of whom 16,177 are fixed residents. These figures represent the population between sunset and sunrise; to calculate the daily population it will be necessary to add some 8,000 aliens and 1,500 British subjects resident in the neighbouring Spanish town of La Linea, who come into Gibraltar daily.

The number of births during the year was 360, of which 181 were boys and 179 girls. The birth-rate per 1,000 was 22.25. The births refer to the fixed population only, as, under the Aliens Order in Council, no alien may give birth in the Colony.

254 deaths were registered, and the crude death-rate was 14.66 per 1,000. Infantile mortality was 91.6 per 1,000, which is the lowest since 1915, and deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis 1.5 per 1,000. The number of deaths from cancer was 27, an increase of 9 on the number for last year.

The year 1924 was a very satisfactory one as regards general health in Gibraltar. There was no disease in epidemic form. The sanitary work of the Colony is carried out by the City Council, who have also charge of roads, lighting and hygienic measures in dwellings and the provision of water supply.

II. Government Finance.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years has been:—

			<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>
			£		£
1920	...	...	287,051	...	372,994
1921	...	...	249,133	...	289,393
1922	...	...	291,592	...	276,733
1923	...	...	150,283	...	167,087
1924	...	...	166,115	...	160,362

Included under expenditure for the years 1920 and 1921 are the sums of £117,837 and £38,469 respectively, being provision made for depreciation on invested funds: and the revenue of 1922 includes an amount of £93,604 for appreciation on funds invested, viz., £13,790 corresponding to 1921 and £79,814 to 1922. The amount included in revenue for 1923 under appreciation of invested funds is £4,663, and for 1924, £7,650.

The abolition as from 1st July, 1922, of the export duty on coal and fuel oil, and a large decrease in the duty collected on tobacco imported are mainly responsible for the important fall in the revenue for the years 1923 and 1924.

There is no Public Debt.

A statement of assets and liabilities on 31st December, 1924, is given below:—

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

<i>Assets.</i>	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank and Chest and in hands of Crown Agents for the Colonies and Sub-Accountants	52,895	9	4
Advances due to Government	132	19	11
Imprests	400	0	0
Unallocated Stores Suspense Account	1,726	6	9
Investments (at cost):—			
General Revenue	273,541	15	5
Savings Bank	123,511	9	11
Note Security Fund	160,000	0	0
	557,053	5	4
Investments on account of Deposits:—			
Supreme Court Funds	46,542	8	4
Custodian, Enemy Property	458	5	0
	47,000	13	4
	£659,208	14	8

<i>Liabilities.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Deposits due by Government:—						
Supreme Court Funds	79,298	2	9			
Savings Bank	128,926	11	7			
Clearing Offices, Enemy Debts	5,483	6	3			
Currency Notes	160,000	0	0			
Sundry Deposits	5,987	10	0			
	379,695	10	7			
Drafts and Remittances	7,050	0	0			
Investments Depreciation Account	20,386	6	4			
Reserve Fund	100,000	0	0			
	507,131	16	11			
Balance of Assets in excess of Liabilities	152,076	17	9			
	£659,208	14	8			

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The legal tender of the Colony is British currency, and the accounts in Government Departments are so kept, but Spanish currency circulates freely. The fact that a very large proportion of supplies of foodstuffs, &c., is obtained from Spain necessitates payment being made in the currency of that country. Many merchants and traders keep their accounts in pesetas and centimos and dollars and cents.

The rate for conversion of British into Spanish currency is governed by the Stock Exchange at Madrid and telegraphed daily to the banks at Gibraltar. The average for the year was 33 pesetas 5 centimos to the pound sterling.

Colonial Government Currency Notes are in circulation to the amount of £160,000. These Notes were issued under the Bank Note Ordinance, 1914, and are of values £50, £5, £1, 10s. and 2s.

A Government Savings Bank which was established in 1882 is worked under the administration of the Post Office. The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1924, was 3,239; with deposits amounting to £128,926. Interest is paid at the rate of a halfpenny per mensem on each complete sum of twenty shillings.

There are five private banks, who have correspondents in all the principal cities of the world and offer every facility for the transaction of banking business, viz :—

The Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Head Office, 27 & 29, King William Street, London, E.C.4.

The Credit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie, Head Office, Algiers; Central Office, 43, Rue Cambon, Paris; London Branch, 18, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C.4.

The Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., Head Office, 37, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

A. L. Galliano, of Gibraltar.

Messrs. Rugeroni Bros. & Co., of Gibraltar.

III. Trade and Industry.

The staple trade is the supply of coal, fuel oil, stores, and fresh water to shipping, as Gibraltar is pre-eminently a coaling station. A fair amount of business is also carried on in connection with the transit cargo to Morocco and Spain.

The total number of vessels coaled during the year was 3,360 and the quantity of coal taken was 555,744 tons.

Statistics of imports and exports (except such as are necessary for revenue purposes) are not kept, the only dutiable goods being wines, spirits, malt liquors, motor spirits, and tobacco.

The only industries in Gibraltar, apart from a small match factory which opened in 1922, are connected with shipping and the manufacture of tobacco. At the foundries and yards situated on the North Front boats, lighters, and steam launches are built and repaired and extensive repairs are often carried out to both hulls and machinery of vessels calling here.

There is no land in Gibraltar capable of cultivation.

IV. Legislation.

Thirteen laws were enacted during the year, seven of which have interest other than local :—

Ordinance No. 3.—Providing for the levying of stamp duties in certain cases.

Ordinance No. 4.—Increasing import duty on spirits, strong waters, liqueurs and malt liquor, and levying an import duty on motor spirits.

Ordinance No. 5.—Exempting from stamp duty certain bills of exchange.

Ordinance No. 8.—Providing for the registration and licensing of certain businesses in Gibraltar.

Ordinance No. 10.—Regulating the liability of employers to make compensation for personal injuries suffered by workmen in their service.

Ordinance No. 11.—Providing for the registration in Gibraltar of Letters Patent granted in the United Kingdom.

Ordinance No. 13.—Fixing fees for issue of passports and endorsement and renewal of same.

V. Education.

Under Ordinance No. 7 of 1917 education is compulsory in the case of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years.

A Board of Education was instituted in 1921 to advise generally on all matters relating to Government-aided schools, and is constituted as follows:—

The Colonial Secretary (Chairman).

The President, Roman Catholic Schools' Committee.

The Director of the Christian Brothers Government-aided schools.

Three representatives of the Roman Catholic schools.

One representative of the undenominational school.

The Inspector of Schools—ex-officio Secretary of the Board.

The Government grant-in-aid per pupil in average attendance in efficient day schools during the school year is £3 10s., and the total amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1925, was £7,691.

Books and equipment are issued to pupils free of charge, and for this purpose a special grant is made to the several School Committees, ranging, according to standard, from 2s. to 16s. for each child appearing on the roll on the last day of the scholastic year. The total amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1925, was £982.

In addition, Government paid £553 to the City Council on behalf of the schools for general sanitary purposes, rates and water, and £324 for rent of certain school premises.

The total cost to Government in respect of education was, therefore, £9,550.

The payment of "school pence" is voluntary, and the receipts from this source are practically negligible.

There are 10 school buildings containing 14 Government-aided schools for primary education—11 Roman Catholic, 2 Hebrew and 1 undenominational.

The Roman Catholic schools are conducted by the Christian Brothers and Nuns of the Order of Loreto, and the Hebrew and undenominational schools by lay teachers, and the various schools are under the direct management of local committees.

The total number of scholars on the registers was 2,617, and 2,257 was the average number in attendance during the year.

The work of the School Attendance Officer, appointed early in 1923, has continued to bear good results; over 80 attendance orders were issued during the year, whilst 51 cases have been brought before the Police Magistrate's Court for infringement of the Compulsory Education Ordinance.

A noteworthy advance during the year under review was the introduction of classes in handicrafts. At present these are confined to woodwork, but it is hoped to extend this as time goes on.

Mr. E. Glasgow, an Inspector from the Home Board of Education, again visited Gibraltar for the purpose of examining the pupils of the Government-aided schools and reporting on their efficiency. As a result of his inspection all the schools, with three exceptions, have received the full grant.

Monthly inspections of the children in the schools were carried out by the school nurse, one of the staff nurses attached to the Colonial Hospital, and occasional visits paid by the Assistant Surgeons.

SECONDARY.

There are five secondary schools in the Colony, viz:—

Line Wall College, for boys, conducted by the Christian Brothers.

Convents of Loreto and St. Francis Xavier, for girls, under the Nuns of the Loreto Order.

“Brympton,” a Church of England school, for boys and girls, managed by a local committee and conducted by the teachers.

“Brighthurst,” for boys and girls, under the directorship of Mr. E. Martin.

In these educational establishments pupils are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations and the Examination of the London College of Preceptors, both of which are held annually. In addition to the above there are a number of private schools with about 300 pupils, but the instruction given is mainly of an elementary character.

VI. Communications.

POSTAL.

British and Continental mails are forwarded and received daily by overland route—via Spain and France—and there is a daily steam service in connection with this mail service, between Gibraltar and the Spanish town of Algeciras, for which the Colonial Government pays the Andaluces Railway Company, under contract, an annual subsidy of £750.

Correspondence for Egypt and places eastward of Suez is forwarded weekly by Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company steamers, and the Orient Line steamers also carry mails for Port Said, Colombo and Australia.

Ship mails for Malta, Algiers, and Oran are made up and despatched by merchant steamers by every practicable opportunity, and mails for Morocco are carried by Bland's line of steamers twice a week, and daily via Algeciras.

There is also a parcel post service with the United Kingdom, and parcels may be sent to nearly all countries in the Postal Union.

Overland mails from Gibraltar reach London and vice versa in about three and a half days.

TELEGRAPHS.

The Government land lines connecting Gibraltar with the Spanish towns of San Roque, Cadiz, Malaga, and Cordoba are worked by the Eastern Telegraph Company who, under a special agreement, pay £300 annually to the Colonial Government.

The Eastern Telegraph Company have a station at Gibraltar where telegrams are accepted for all parts of the world.

Commercial and private messages for transmission by the Naval Wireless Station to merchant vessels at sea in the neighbourhood are also accepted at the offices of the Eastern Telegraph Company and, similarly, wireless messages received from ships are delivered by that Company.

TELEPHONES.

There are no telephones under Colonial Government Control. There is a telephone service worked as a commercial undertaking by a private individual, which allows certain facilities to public departments. The Naval and Military departments have their own lines which are connected with the Civil Exchange.

ROADS.

The upkeep of roads is in the hands of the City Council in whom they are vested by law. The length of roads open for traffic is five and a quarter miles in the City, or North District, four miles in the South District, and about four and a half miles in the North Front and Catalan Bay District.

Roads in the City are narrow; those in the other districts are fairly wide. All are in excellent condition and are suitable for motor traffic.

There are no railways or tramways in Gibraltar.

SHIPPING.

Owing to its geographical position, Gibraltar is extensively used as a port of call and a coaling station by vessels of every nationality.

The following table shows the number and tonnage of ships which entered Gibraltar during 1924.

<i>Steamers.</i>		<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
4,638	7,218,914	505	23,634	5,143	7,242,548

As compared with 1923 there was a net increase of 722 in the total number of vessels entering the port, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,681,673 tons—a decrease of 192 sailing vessels and an increase of 914 steamers.

The principal lines which call regularly at this Port are :—

Weekly.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

Fortnightly.—Orient Line, Anchor Line, Moss Line, Ellerman Line, White Star Line, Union-Castle Line, Wescott and Laurance, Power Steamship Company, Hall Line, Société Générale de Transport Maritime à Vapeur, Byron Steamship Co., Royal Netherland Steamship Co., Royal Nederland West India Mail Line, Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland, Holland-America Line, and Elwell Line.

Monthly.—Cunard Line, Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Swedish Morocco Line, and France-Amerique Co.

In addition to the above, Bland's local line of steamers make frequent sailings to and from Moroccan, Algerian, and Spanish ports, and arrangements have now been made by Messrs. Bland to combine the sailings of their steamers with the arrival and departure of those belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and Orient Line respectively, thus establishing a direct service between the United Kingdom and Morocco via Gibraltar. There is also a daily steam service between Gibraltar and the town of Algeciras on the opposite side of the Bay.

The length of passage from London to Gibraltar is about four and a half days.

C. W. J. ORR,

Colonial Secretary.

GIBRALTAR.

20th June, 1925

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No. 1267.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT FOR 1924.

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No. 1267.

ST. VINCENT.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1924.

I.—Geographical and Historical.

The Island of St. Vincent is popularly supposed to have been discovered by Columbus on the 22nd of January, 1498. It is situated in $13^{\circ} 10'$ N. latitude, and $60^{\circ} 57'$ W. longitude, at a distance of 21 miles to the south-west of St. Lucia, and 100 miles west of Barbados. It is 18 miles in length and 11 in breadth, and contains about 96,000 acres of land—about half the area of Middlesex. Most of the Grenadines, a chain of small islands lying between Grenada and St. Vincent, are comprised within the Government of the latter island. The principal is Bequia, situated at a distance of nine miles from Kingstown, the capital of St. Vincent.

At the time of its discovery, St. Vincent, like some of the other small islands, was inhabited by the Caribs, who continued in the undisputed possession of it until 1627, when the King of England made a grant of the island to the Earl of Carlisle. In 1660 it was declared neutral, and in 1672 it was granted to Lord Willoughby.

In 1748 St. Vincent was declared neutral by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. In 1756, however, hostilities were renewed and the island was taken in 1762 by General Monckton; and by the Treaty of Paris in the following year it was ceded to Great Britain, when General Melville was appointed Governor.

In 1773 an extensive portion of St. Vincent was allotted to the Caribs on condition that they acknowledged the King of Great Britain as their Sovereign.

In 1779 the island surrendered to the French, and by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 it was restored to Great Britain.

II.—General Observations.

The year 1924 may properly be regarded from every point of view as a very prosperous one in the history of the Colony. The Revenue £60,893 was the highest on record, exceeding the Expenditure by over £7,000, and exceeding the Revenue of 1923 by £8,860. This was due largely to the marked improvement in trade which was reflected in the Customs returns, the total trade of the Colony amounting to £310,890, as against £270,048 in 1923. The yield from the new Income Tax Law brought into operation early in the year exceeded the amount estimated by nearly £2,000.

The surplus balance of the Colony, which amounted to £15,282 at the beginning of the year, increased to £22,288 at the close of the year, and it was possible to set aside £11,000 as a Reserve Fund to be invested in good liquid securities, thus fulfilling a cardinal requirement in the case of a small Colony like St. Vincent, which is subject to periods of severe economic depression from time to time.

The Colony is wholly dependent for its prosperity upon agriculture, and it is satisfactory to note from the export returns of the produce of the Island that the export of arrowroot (valued at about 4d. per lb.) showed a considerable increase on that for 1923, the export of cassava starch (valued at about 2½d. per lb.) was about double that of the average export for the last ten years, while the export of Sea Island cotton, 520,369 lb., the first quality of which was valued at 2s. per lb., though slightly below the record year 1923 was well above the average export for the last ten years. This is a matter of congratulation in view of the alarm caused in 1923 by the appearance of the dreaded Pink Boll worm, and shows that, thanks to the careful carrying out of the legislation and regulations framed to meet the outbreak, the disease has been kept under control. For this the Agricultural Department of the Colony deserve the greatest credit.

A marked feature of the agricultural life of this Island is the increasing attention paid to copra. For the year 1924, 645,973 lb. valued at £5,430 were exported, as against 356,626 lb. valued at £2,959 in 1923. Since 1918 the export of copra has increased by leaps and bounds. In that year, 7,104 lb. of a value of £189 were exported.

As regards syrup, another bumper year may be recorded. The quantity shipped amounted to 261,127 gallons, value £15,758. This has not been exceeded for many years, except during 1923 when 275,932 gallons, value £18,711, were exported.

The Colony duly participated in the Wembley Exhibition, and various specimens of its staple products were sent for the purpose and arranged under the able supervision of its

representative, Mr. Ernest Brown, to whom, together with the local Committee under the Chairmanship of His Honour Mr. Justice Rae, and to the Agricultural Superintendent, Mr. Jackson, the thanks of the Colony are due for the very successful show made by this little island. The Arrowroot Growers and Exporters Association co-operated loyally and generously, and planters lent valuable assistance. A small brochure was prepared for distribution at the Exhibition giving details of the principal industries of the Colony, and it is hoped that this will assist in educating the British public in the knowledge that Colonial products are the best, and in advertising the existence of St. Vincent with its excellent arrowroot, Sea Island cotton, and syrup.

The general health of the Island throughout the year was good. The total population at 31st December was 47,591. The birth-rate for the year was 37·72 per 1,000, and the death-rate 16·49. The death-rate shows a considerable decrease as compared with 1923, when it was 22·21, and is the lowest for the last three years. Thirty cases of enteric occurred with 10 deaths, as against 26 cases with 6 deaths in 1923, 19 of the cases occurring in the Windward district.

Infantile mortality showed a considerable decrease as compared with 1923, deaths of children under one year (excluding still-births) numbering 169, as against 237 in 1923, and the mortality rate per 1,000 births 99, as against 128. It is noteworthy that illegitimate births amounted to over 75 per cent. of all the births, and that out of 93 still-births 79 were illegitimate.

The campaign against yaws was continued with success, a total of 2,377 cases being treated of which 1,813 were cured.

A residence was built for the District Medical Officer residing at Chateaubelair—a long-felt need—and various sanitary improvements were effected in the smaller towns, but the Colony is still in need of a qualified Chief Sanitary Officer to train and supervise the work of the sanitary inspectors.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G., paid a short visit to the Island in H.M.S. *Valerian* in October. Lieutenant-Colonel Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., who had been administering the Government of the Windward Islands for the first seven months of the year, paid a flying visit to the Island on 10th March in an American seaplane, whose arrival created extraordinary interest and excitement among all classes. The seaplane had flown from St. Lucia to St. Vincent in the morning, and after a few hours here continued her flight to Grenada and thence back to St. Lucia. This opens out a vista of untold possibilities in the near future.

Various changes in the Staff occurred during the year, the most noteworthy being the appointment of an Inspector of Schools, which abolishes the unscientific combination involved in a headmaster of a big grammar school being at the same time an inspector of primary schools, the appointment of a new Magistrate for the Second District, Mr. J. A. L. Reed, and the appointment of a new Attorney-General, Mr. N. H. Turton.

The outstanding event of the year was the inauguration of the New Constitution, introducing the elective principle in the Legislative Council, and abolishing the former practice of nomination. The Letters Patent were read and proclaimed publicly at the Court House on 1st December amidst great popular rejoicing, and it was felt that a new landmark had been passed in the political evolution of the Colony.

This short record would not be complete without reference to the loss of two well-known figures in the life of the Island, Mr. W. C. Hutchinson, I.S.O., late Colonial Treasurer, and Miss Annie Mackie, M.B.E. Mr. Hutchinson was a conscientious and hard-working official, who had only just retired on pension when he was called to his long rest, and Miss Mackie had done long and devoted work in the interests of the poor. Their places will be hard to fill.

III.—Climate.

St. Vincent is one of the healthiest of all the West Indian islands. The climate may be divided into two seasons, wet and dry; the dry season from January to May, and the wet season from June to December. The coolest months are December to April.

The temperature throughout the year varied from 78·1° F. to 81·8° F. The highest was in September and the lowest in January. Meteorological records for 1924 show that the mean monthly temperature was 80·2° F., as against 82·9° F. in 1923.

The rainfall at the Agricultural Experimental Station in Kingstown, 80 ft. above sea-level, was 85·07 in., as compared with 69·39 in. in 1923. Rain fell on 277 days, and the greatest fall for one day was 3·63 in. on the 29th July.

The rainfall at the Botanic Gardens, only a mile away from the Experimental Station, but some 200 ft. higher up, was 90·49 in. The average at these gardens for the last 31 years was 102·59 in., so that the rainfall during 1924 was some 12 in. below the average.

The reading of the barometer, corrected for instrumental error, elevation and temperature, ranged from 30·175 in. on the 23rd May to 29·859 in. on the 16th October.

IV.—Financial.**GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.**

The financial position of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, was :—

		£
Net Surplus at 1st January, 1924		15,282
Revenue in 1924		60,893
		<hr/>
		£ 76,175
Expenditure in 1924	53,887	
Transferred to Reserve Fund ...	11,000	
	<hr/>	64,887
Net Surplus at 31st December, 1924 ...		£11,288

Expenditure from Loan Funds on the reconstruction of the Windward highway amounted to £387.

The net local revenue and expenditure in the last three years were :—

	<i>Local Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure against Local Revenue.</i>
	£	£
1922	49,289	46,711
1923	52,031	47,883
1924	60,893	53,887

The principal items of revenue in the last three years were :—

	1922	1923	1924
	£	£	£
Import Duties... ..	18,511	19,499	25,869
Export Duties	2,142	3,073	3,032
Excise Duty on Rum...	5,327	5,430	2,938
Land and House Tax...	6,459	5,892	5,882
Income Tax	1,736	2,044	3,947
Liquor Trade Duty ...	2,338	2,470	2,934
Postage Stamps	1,708	1,588	2,334

The unexpended balance of £25,000 of the Eruption Relief Fund, made up from donations from the public in England and elsewhere at the time of the eruptions in the Soufrière volcano in 1902–3, is invested and held as a reserve or insurance fund against any future elemental disaster. The annual interest derived from this balance, amounting to £750, is put to the general revenue and is applied to the relief of the poor. This amount, together with the £11,000 transferred to Reserve Fund, offers excellent security for the Colony, both for elemental disasters and economic depression.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt at 31st December, 1924, was £10,850, of which £1,500 is a loan raised by the town of Kingstown in 1914 for which the Colony is responsible only in case of default. The

accumulated sinking funds provided for its redemption stood at £5,023 on the 31st December, 1924, of which £4,163 was in respect of Government Loans, and £860 of the Kingstown Board Loan.

The balance of £154 due to the Imperial Treasury at 31st December, 1923, payable in January, 1924, on the Hurricane Loan to planters was duly paid off. As the sum of £554 was at that date held invested by the Crown Agents on this account, the Colony benefited to the extent of £400 from the operation of this Loan.

CURRENCY.

British and American gold, five-dollar notes of the Colonial Bank, and British silver and bronze coins constitute the currency of the Colony. Government accounts are kept in sterling, and commercial and banking accounts in dollars and cents.

V.—Vital Statistics.

The population of the Colony in 1921 was 44,447 according to the census taken in that year. The population on 31st December, 1924, was estimated by the Registrar-General at 47,591 persons.

The following table gives the births, deaths and marriages in the past two years :—

	1923	1924
Births	1,963	1,795
Males	1,000	936
Females	963	859
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...	41·99	37·72
Deaths	1,038	785
Death-rate per 1,000	22·21	16·49
Marriages	88	114
Marriage-rate per 1,000 ...	1·88	2·39

Illegitimate births numbered 1,363, or 75·9 per cent. of the total number of all births.

Still-births were 93, of which 79 were illegitimate.

VI.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total values of imports and exports in 1923 and 1924 were :—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total Trade. £
1923	138,677	131,371	270,048
1924	160,028	150,862	310,890

Produce of the Colony to the value of £150,811 was exported in 1924, as against £128,788 in 1923.

The following table shows the value of imports for the past two years :—

	1923	1924
	£	£
United Kingdom	41,147	51,834
Canada	40,862	40,686
British West Indies... ..	7,736	12,641
India	1,080	869
Newfoundland	2,018	3,142
Other British Colonies ...	4,866	6,125
United States of America ...	28,943	33,983
France	1,226	1,264
Denmark	8	543
Holland	486	553
Foreign West Indies... ..	15	69
Germany	1,057	1,335
Other countries	9,233	6,984
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£138,677	£160,028
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The increases in the values of imports and exports were due to the general improvement in trade and in increases in values and quantities exported, the latter being particularly applicable to the exports of arrowroot, cotton, cassava starch, and copra.

The following are the percentages in the last two years of the principal countries from which imported articles are obtained :—

	1923	1924
United Kingdom... ..	29·67	32·39
United States of America ...	20·87	21·24
Canada	29·46	25·42
All other countries	20·00	20·95

The following is a summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink and tobacco... ..	60,842
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	74,080
Raw materials and articles mainly un-	
manufactured	18,104
Miscellaneous and unclassified	7,002
	<hr/>
	£160,028
	<hr/>

EXPORTS.

The destinations of the exports of the produce of the Colony in 1923 and 1924 were as follows :—

	1923	1924
	£	£
United Kingdom	73,003	84,501
Canada	19,223	18,368
British West Indies	32,429	39,121
British Guiana	1,541	1,101
United States of America	2,480	6,931
Other countries	112	789
	<hr/> £128,788	<hr/> £150,811

The principal products of the Colony exported were :—

	1923	1924
	£	£
Arrowroot	31,829	51,361
Cotton :—		
Sea Island	47,292	50,218
Marie Galante	217	58
Seed Cotton, Marie Galante	421	534
Cocoa	1,755	1,820
Sugar :—		
Crystallised	1,863	280
Syrup and Molasses	18,711	15,758
Cassava Starch	3,700	6,838
Copra	2,959	5,430
Peanuts	5,988	4,439
Animals	5,884	2,559
Cotton Seed	2	2,216
Cotton-seed Oil	300	467
Whale Oil	90	476
Vegetables, fresh	3,216	2,550
Peas	1,595	984
Corn	1,326	752

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The Government Cotton Ginnery continued to buy seed cotton on profit-sharing terms, but confined its activities to Sea Island cotton only.

The following quantities were dealt with in the seasons 1922-23 and 1923-24 :—

	1922-23	1923-24
	lb.	lb.
Sea Island seed cotton	162,321	123,330
Marie Galante	9,003	—

Corn was purchased on the co-operative system to the following extent during the season 1923-24 :—

					lb.
Shelled corn	...	...	...	...	29,200
Cob corn	...	...	...	...	4,416

Cotton.—The 1924-25 cotton season was very successful despite the Pink Boll Worm and other pests. The area planted was 4,563 acres—3,294 acres of Sea Island and 1,269 acres of Marie Galante—as compared with 4,515 acres—3,387 acres of Sea Island and 1,128 acres of Marie Galante—in the previous season. The yield from Sea Island cotton during the season under review was at the rate of 136 lb. of lint per acre; for the 1923-24 season it was 140 lb. per acre; and for the 1922-23 season 161 lb. per acre, while the average yield for the 10 years preceding 1922-23 was 89 lb. per acre.

Cotton seed is used extensively as a fertiliser.

Sea Island cotton amounting to 520,369 lb., of the value of £50,218, was exported during the year, as against 585,143 lb., of the value of £47,292, in 1923.

The export of Marie Galante was 1,540 lb., value £58, as against 5,084 lb., value £217, in 1923.

Marie Galante seed cotton to the amount of 32,030 lb., value £534, was exported in 1924, as against 67,301 lb., value £421, in 1923.

Sugar.—The sugar-cane industry continued to be an important one.

The export of crystallised sugar showed a marked decline as compared with 1923, the figures being :—

1923	...	...	145,944 lb., value £1,863
1924	...	...	22,400 lb., value £280

Syrup and Molasses.—261,127 gallons, of the value of £15,758, were exported in 1924, as against 275,932 gallons, of the value of £18,711, in the previous year.

Rum.—15,385 proof gallons were manufactured in the Colony, showing a decrease of 2,141 proof gallons on the previous year. Imported rum for local consumption amounted to 14,706 proof gallons, as compared with 961 proof gallons in 1923.

Arrowroot.—There was no fixing of prices in the London market by the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' and Exporters' Association during the year 1924. The position as regards this commodity remained satisfactory, the market price being about 4d. per lb. 2,952,535 lb., of the value of £51,361, were exported, as compared with 2,177,183 lb., of the value of £31,829, in 1923.

Peanuts.—322,153 lb., value £4,439, were exported, as against 492,972 lb., value £5,988, in 1923.

Copra.—The exports of copra have increased very considerably during the last few years.

In 1920, 22,644 lb. were exported.

„ 1921,	89,005	„	„	„
„ 1922,	222,593	„	„	„
„ 1923,	356,626	„	„	„
„ 1924,	645,973	„	„	„

It is estimated that if nothing untoward occurs for the next few years the area of the Island in bearing coconut trees will be increased annually by at least 200 acres. Only a small number of coconuts was exported.

There are twenty-one Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies in the Colony. The amount of money loaned in 1924 was £1,381, as compared with £1,330 in 1923. A few Societies failed to repay in 1924 debts contracted in earlier years, but on the whole, with the exception of two or three Societies, there is evidence to show that a vigorous attempt was made to pay off outstanding loans.

SHIPPING.

The number of vessels entered was 381, of 236,346 tons; and 381 cleared, of 240,088 tons. One vessel of 8 tons was registered during the year.

VII.—Education.

Education is not compulsory.

The following comparative table gives particulars in regard to primary education during the years 1923 and 1924 :—

	1923	1924
Number of schools	27	27
Number of pupils on roll at 31st December	4,314	4,945
Average attendance	2,472	2,639
Government Grant-in-aid ...	£2,469	£2,794
Cost per head in average attendance	£1	£1 1s. 2d.

Nine of the twenty-seven regular schools belong to the Government, which bears the whole cost of their maintenance. Religious denominations provide, and are responsible for the upkeep of, the buildings of the other eighteen schools. The salaries of the teachers, however, and the greater part of the other expenses of these schools are paid from public funds.

There were eight other small schools of a primary education standard, known as “Aided Schools,” which were assisted by small Government grants to the extent of £112.

The Government maintains in Kingstown a secondary school for the education of boys—the Grammar School, and one for girls—the Girls’ High School. The average attendance in 1924 was

74 boys and 41 girls, as compared with 79 boys and 49 girls in 1923. There is a system of Government scholarships to the Grammar School for pupils from the primary schools.

There is an Island Scholarship awarded biennially under Ordinance No. 41 of 1921, tenable for not less than three and not more than five years at an approved University. The annual value is £250, and the cost of passage is also defrayed.

The first Island Scholar to be appointed, Mr. P. E. McL. Clarke, left the Colony in September, 1923, to study medicine at King's College, London. Satisfactory reports have been received as to his progress in his studies.

A second scholar, Mr. A. B. Brereton, was appointed in 1924, and will shortly leave to take up his medical studies at Edinburgh University.

Provision exists for the Town Boards of Kingstown and Georgetown to provide sums towards scholarships and exhibitions at the secondary schools on lines similar to the Government exhibitions.

VIII.—Hospitals.

The following hospital accommodation is provided :—Colonial Hospital, Kingstown, 86 beds (including 4 beds for private paying patients); District Casualty Hospital, Georgetown, 4 beds; and District Casualty Hospital, Chateaubelair, 4 beds.

IX.—Banks.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The following is a comparative statement of the operations of the Government Savings Bank during the past two years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number of depositors at 31st December.</i>	<i>Amount of Deposits.</i>	<i>Amount of withdrawals.</i>	<i>Balance to credit of depositors at 31st December, including interest capitalized.</i>
		£	£	£
1923 ...	776	2,528	4,177	13,535
1924 ...	732	2,598	2,548	13,954

The interest capitalized during the year amounted to £369.

The Savings Bank funds invested at the 31st December, 1924, amounted to £12,849. Interest at 3 per cent. is paid on deposits.

COLONIAL BANK.

There is a branch of the Colonial Bank, with headquarters in England, with a paid-up capital of £900,000. There is also a savings bank department attached to the branch.

X.—Communications.**EXTERNAL.**

A regular fortnightly service is maintained by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, calling on their outward and homeward voyages at Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Trinidad, and British Guiana. The Harrison, the Canadian Merchant Marine, and the Columbian Lines of steamers also call at uncertain intervals with and for cargo and mails. Mails and cargo are also sent and received by sailing vessels to and from Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad, where there is direct communication by steamers with the United Kingdom and the United States.

INTERNAL.

The Post Office does a considerable amount of money-order and parcels business (including the cash on delivery system with the United Kingdom) with the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and other countries.

The central office is in Kingstown, with seventeen district offices. Mails are sent to the Windward side of the Island by motor-car, by motor-boat to the Leeward side, and to the Grenadines by sailing opportunities.

There is no inland telegraph service. The West India and Panama Telegraph Company maintained their station at St. Vincent, and furnished daily news bulletins throughout the year. The subsidy of £300 per annum to the Company ceased on the 30th September on the expiry of the contract with them.

The erection of the wireless station for the new telegraph system authorized by the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924, of the Imperial Parliament had not been started at the close of the year.

The Government maintains a telephone system which connects Kingstown with exchanges in the districts and with residences and places of business. There were 189 services and 197 miles of line in use.

R. WALTER,

Administrator.

Government House,

St. Vincent.

22nd August, 1925.

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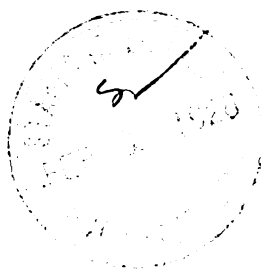
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1268.

ST. LUCIA.

REPORT FOR 1924.

For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1169 and 1240 (Price 6d. each).



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No. 1268.

ST. LUCIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

Situation and Area.

The island of St. Lucia is situated in latitude $13^{\circ} 50'$ North and longitude $60^{\circ} 58'$ West, at a distance of 24 miles to the south-east of Martinique and 21 to the north-east of St. Vincent.

It is 24 miles in length and 12 at its greatest breadth; its circumference is 150 miles and its area 233.29 square miles, rather less than Middlesex.

Castries, the capital, is situated at the north-western end of the Island and has a population, according to the census of the 24th April, 1921, of 5,899.

The Port of Castries is one of the best harbours in the West Indies. It is land-locked and provides facilities for coaling and watering ships and for loading and discharging cargo which are unequalled in these islands.

The town of next importance is Soufrière, which lies about 12 miles to the south of Castries and contains a population of 2,480. Just below Soufrière Bay stand the remarkable twin peaks known as "The Pitons," rising sheer from the sea to a height of 2,619 ft. in the case of the Gros Piton and to 2,461 ft. in that of the Petit Piton. The boiling sulphur springs from which Soufrière gets its name are situate at Ventine, two and a half miles south-east of that town.

History.

It is generally accepted that St. Lucia was discovered by Columbus, during his fourth voyage, on the 15th June, 1502. There is, however, a tradition amongst the French that it was discovered on the 13th December of a later year by some shipwrecked French seamen who named it St. Alouziel or St. Alousie after the martyred virgin saint of that name, whose feast is commemorated on that date.

The Island was then inhabited by the Caribs and they remained in undisturbed possession for another century.

In 1605, sixty-seven persons proceeding to Guiana by the English ship "Olive Blossom" were forced by famine to land in the Island and they remained "to take their fortune in the fruitful isle." They were not able to stay longer than a month, however, when, reduced to nineteen by wars with the Caribs, they left in an open boat and reached the mainland of South America in sore distress. This is the first recorded instance of a landing by Englishmen in the Island.

In 1626 a Commission was granted by Cardinal Richelieu to MM. d'Enambuc and du Rossay to establish a French Colony "in the islands of St. Christopher and Barbados and in the surrounding territories," which presumably included St. Lucia, and in 1627 the Island was granted by the King of England, along with all the Caribbee Islands, to the Earl of Carlisle, who appointed Lord Willoughby of Parham to be Governor of Barbados and the other Caribbee Islands. In 1635 it appears to have been granted by the King of France to MM. de l'Olive and Duplessis.

In 1638 Captain Judlee of St. Kitts (acting in the name of Lord Willoughby) and three or four hundred men took possession of the Island and attempted to effect a settlement in it, but in 1640 these early colonists were massacred and expelled by the Caribs.

In 1642 the King of France, still claiming a right of sovereignty over the Island, ceded it to the French West India Company, who sold it in 1650 to MM. Honel and du Parquet for the equivalent of £1,600. The Caribs made repeated attempts to expel the French but failed and finally in 1660 they concluded a treaty of peace with the latter.

In 1663, Thomas Warner, the natural son of the Governor of St. Christopher, made a descent on St. Lucia and took possession of it. The English continued in occupation until the Peace of Breda in 1667 when the Island was restored to the French. In 1674 it was re-annexed to the Crown of France and made a dependency of Martinique.

Throughout the eighteenth century recurrent struggles took place between the English and the French for possession of the Island, the more important occurring in the latter half of the century. In 1762 it surrendered to the joint operations of Admiral Rodney and General Monkton but was returned to France by the treaty of Paris in the following year. In 1778 it again surrendered to the British, who remained in occupation until 1783 when, by the Peace of Versailles, St. Lucia was once more restored to France. It was from Pigeon Island, off the north-western coast of St. Lucia, during the period of this occupancy, that Rodney sighted the French fleet of 36 sail of the line under the Comte de Grasse prior to giving them battle and defeating them in the memorable naval action of the 12th April, 1782.

The Island was again taken by the British in 1794 but they were forced by the French Republican party in the Island, aided by insurgent slaves under "Citoyen" Victor Hughes, the Civil Commissary of Guadeloupe, to evacuate it in the following year. In 1796, after an obstinate and sanguinary struggle, that party laid down their arms and surrendered as prisoners of war to a force 12,000 strong under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie supported by a squadron under the command of Sir Hugh Christian. Sir John Moore, the subsequent hero of Corunna, took part in this operation as Brigadier-General Moore, and remained in the Island as Governor thereafter. The British retained possession of the Island until 1802, when it was restored to France by the Treaty of Amiens; but on the renewal of hostilities it surrendered by capitulation to General Greenfield on the 22nd June, 1803, since which it has continued under British rule. As a result of the operations of 1778, 1796 and 1803 no fewer than thirteen British regiments have "St. Lucia" inscribed on their colours.

Climate.

The climate is healthy and compares favourably with other West Indian islands. The temperature varies between 70° in the cool season, from December to May, to 90° in the remainder of the year. On Morne Fortuné, just above Government House, where a portion of the former garrison was located, the temperature in the winter months falls as low as 60° and throughout the year it remains mild and pleasant.

The temperature records during 1924 show a mean noon temperature of 84.50° in the shade and a mean night temperature of 72° , the range of temperature being 27° (92° – 65°). The rainfall recorded at the Botanic Station, Castries, for the year was 82.88 inches, being 2.25 inches above the average for 25 years. The mean barometric pressure was 29.66.

General Observations.

Trade conditions during the year remained depressed. The price of cocoa, one of the principal products, was at such a low figure as to cause many peasant proprietors to abandon their cultivations. Increased yields were, however, obtained from improved methods of cultivating sugar-cane, and the exports of molasses and syrup rose considerably. Large areas of coconuts are coming into bearing and cultivation is now well established. The banana industry made further progress and should be of considerable benefit to the Colony. The bay rum industry continues to progress and "St. Lucia Bay Rum" now has the active patronage of the well-known firm of Harrods. An oil mill has been started in Castries and coconut oil of excellent quality has been produced. While the value of bunker coal exported

during the year exceeded the value in the previous year, the trade has not recovered to any appreciable extent, but it is hoped that improvement will take place in the future although it is not likely that the coaling industry will regain its pre-war premier position.

St. Lucia is essentially an agricultural Colony and it is to agriculture that it must look in the future to a greater extent than has been the case in the past. Happily this is being done, and more attention paid to improved methods of cultivation and selection of crop plants. Attention is being given to the improvement of the roads and at present there are 126 miles suitable for motor traffic a large portion of which passes through varied and magnificent scenery.

A comfortable hotel has been established and by judicious advertising there is no reason why the Colony should not become a winter resort for visitors from Europe and North America.

During the year, four British, one French and three United States warships, and one United States flying boat visited Port Castries. Through the courtesy of Commodore Gherardi, U.S.N., in placing the Flying Boat P.N.7 at his disposal the Officer then Administering the Government, Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., was able to visit the three islands of the Windward Group in one day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., being sworn in as Acting Governor at Grenada and St. Vincent and spending 4½ hours on shore in those islands.

On the 18th June the Vigie Dry Dock was brought into use for the first time when the coastal motor launch "Hewanorra" was docked.

His Excellency the Governor of the Windward Islands, Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G., arrived in the Colony on H.M.S. "Valerian" on the 3rd October, and subscribed to the oaths as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands.

On the 1st December the new Letters Patent and the Proclamation bringing them into force were read in the Royal Court House before a large and representative assemblage.

On the same day the Pacific Cable Board took over the wireless station on the Morne from the local Government and commenced their service in the Colony.

The new Public Library was opened that afternoon. The building is situated on Columbus Square and was generously provided by the Carnegie Trustees at a cost of £2,500 and erected by Mr. L. E. Lawrence according to plans prepared by him. It is an attractive and substantial building.

Vital Statistics and Public Health.

The estimated population at 31st December, 1924, was 54,304.

The birth-rate (excluding still-births) was 35·7 per 1,000 of the total population, and the death-rate (excluding still-births) 21·4 per 1,000 of the population—1·1 per 1,000 less than in 1923. The infant mortality rate for 1924 was 132·5 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 134·5 in 1923, the primary cause of death being intestinal diseases due to worms and improper feeding.

The principal causes of death in order of frequency were as follows :—

	<i>No. of deaths.</i>			
Intestinal parasites	116
Senile decay	96
Malaria	86
Tuberculosis	75
Pneumonia	61
Syphilis	55
Infant debility	34

The year was a comparatively healthy one, no epidemic having occurred.

The intensive treatment of Hookworm disease was continued by the Rockefeller International Health Board during the year.

Hospitals and Asylums.

The following hospital accommodation is provided :—

Victoria Hospital ... ..	...	...	...	116 beds.
Soufrière Casualty Hospital ... ..	...	...	...	8 „
Vieuxfort Casualty Hospital ... ..	...	...	...	8 „
Dennery Casualty Hospital ... ..	...	...	...	7 „
Pauper Asylum (for infirm and incurable patients) ... ..	...	...	...	98 „
Leper Asylum ... ..	...	...	...	30 „
Lunatic Asylum ... ..	...	...	...	100 „

Finance.

The revenue for the year 1924 amounted to £71,595 and the expenditure to £88,186, the result being a deficit on the year's transactions of £16,591. The corresponding figures for the last five years are as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>		<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920 ...	98,139	93,160	4,979	—	—	—
1921 ...	72,226	101,148	—	—	—	28,922
1922 ...	63,409	89,241	—	—	—	25,832
1923 ...	77,077	88,972	—	—	—	11,895
1924 ...	71,595	88,186	—	—	—	16,591

The annual deficits shown above have exhausted the Colony's surplus, which at the end of March, 1914, stood at £25,567, and there was at the 31st December, 1924, a deficit of £70,662.

The Public Debt of the Colony stood at £143,529, against which there is an accumulated Sinking Fund of £47,720.

Currency and Banking.

British currency and United States gold are legal tender. Accounts are kept in sterling by the Government and by the public; the coin in circulation is almost exclusively British silver and bronze and there is no limit to silver as legal tender.

In 1920 an Ordinance was brought into force providing for the issue of Government currency notes of the value of five shillings and ten shillings. The total value of such notes in circulation at the 31st December, 1924, amounted to £6,549.

The Colonial Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada are established in the Colony. Both banks conduct a savings bank department in addition to the ordinary banking business. The notes of both banks, with Government currency notes and British silver and bronze coin, form the principal medium of monetary exchange.

The number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank at the end of the year was 716, and the amount to credit £13,721, showing a steady decline since the establishment by the two local banks of a savings bank department. The corresponding figures for 1920 were 1,322 depositors with a credit balance of £19,476. The rate of interest is 3 per cent., which is the same as that of the Colonial Bank and Royal Bank of Canada.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of imports (including bunker coal) was £234,647, and of exports (including bunker coal) £233,965. The value of bunker coal imported was £31,721 as compared with £51,570 in 1923, while the exports totalled £51,042 as compared with £50,762 in the previous year.

Imports from the United Kingdom totalled £55,920, and from other parts of the British Empire £65,101, while the total from foreign countries was £105,370; parcels post being responsible for the remaining £8,256.

Of the imports from foreign countries those from the United States of America show a value of £92,009, of which the principal items were bunker coal £31,721 and cinema films £12,550.

Of British countries, Canada shows a total of £41,472, and it is satisfactory to observe that the bulk of the trade hitherto done with the United States of America is now going to Canada.

Of the total exports, commodities valued at £103,473 went to the United Kingdom, £50,658 to other parts of the British

Empire, and £28,051 to foreign countries, while the exports of bunker coal totalled £51,042. Ships' stores with the decline in the shipping trade amounted to £741 only.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 992 of a total tonnage of 966,113 tons. Of this total 440 were steam vessels and 552 sailing.

The following summary of ships entered and cleared is given :

		<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British steamers entered	... ..	148	360,090
British steamers cleared	... ..	148	360,090
British sailing vessels entered	... ..	270	8,981
British sailing vessels cleared	... ..	268	9,010
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total British	... ..	834	738,171
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Foreign steamers entered	... ..	72	113,738
Foreign steamers cleared	... ..	72	113,738
Foreign sailing vessels entered	... ..	7	233
Foreign sailing vessels cleared	... ..	7	233
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total foreign	... ..	158	227,942
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total number and tons		992	966,113
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Agriculture.

The staple agricultural products are sugar with its by-products molasses, syrup and rum; cocoa, logwood, coconuts, limes, bay oil, bay rum, and fruit.

There are four well-equipped central sugar factories and a number of small sugar mills. 71,760 cwt. of vacuum pan sugar were exported and 9,940 cwt. of muscovado. The export of molasses and syrup is on the increase and the quantity exported in 1924 exceeded that in the three previous years. Owing to low prices the export of cocoa fell off. The export of bay rum increased from 8,057 gallons in 1923 to 13,230 gallons in 1924 and promises well for the future. The cultivation of bananas has been extended and is progressing favourably.

Crown Lands.

The Crown owns a considerable area of land, which may be purchased at a nominal rate of £1 per acre up to 50 acres and 10s. per acre above 50 acres, payable in four equal annual instalments. During the year, 1,605 allotments of 100 acres and under were made, of which 1,208 were for areas under 10 acres. One allotment of over 1,000 acres was made.

Legislation.

Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important being :—

- No. 1.—Fixing the conditions under which natives of this Colony and other British West Indians may be engaged by foreign ships.
- No. 4.—Amending the Liquor Licence Ordinance, 1921, in respect of the fees payable for licences for the sale of intoxicating liquor.
- No. 8.—The Income Tax Ordinance, imposing a tax on incomes and regulating the collection thereof on the lines of a model Ordinance recommended by an Inter-departmental Committee and approved by the Secretary of State.
- No. 13.—Regulating the payment of wages to daily labourers.
- No. 19.—Providing for the registration in the Colony of Letters Patent granted in the United Kingdom.

Education.

There were 49 primary schools at the end of the year, viz. : 21 juvenile, 24 infant and 4 combined.

The number of pupils on the roll was 7,611 and the average attendance 5,143, an increase of 315 and 306 respectively over 1923.

The actual expenditure on primary education during the year was £4,630, and the total cost per unit of average attendance £1 3s. 11d.

Secondary education is provided by St. Mary's College for boys and St. Joseph's Convent School for girls. The numbers on the roll at the end of the year were 97 and 135 respectively and the average attendance 92 and 100. St. Mary's College receives a Government grant of £400 per annum and St. Joseph's Convent School £175 per annum. Both schools prepare their pupils for the Cambridge University Local Examinations and the London University Matriculation Examination.

There is an external annual scholarship of the value of £175 per annum awarded on the results of the London University Matriculation Examination to candidates having the necessary requisite local and residential qualifications. The scholarship is tenable for not less than three and not more than five years according to the course of study sanctioned.

Communications.

The roads of the Colony are in fair condition but owing to financial depression progress in improvement is slow. There are now maintained by the Government 125 miles of main roads, 140 miles of byways, and 74 miles of unclassified roads. 126 miles are suitable for motor traffic.

Motor-bus services are maintained between Castries and Dennery and between Vieuxfort and Soufrière.

A 50-ton motor launch plies between Castries and Vieuxfort calling at the villages of Anse-la-Raye, Canaries, Choiseul and Laborie and the town of Soufrière, taking passengers and cargo.

There are nine telephone exchanges connected by 94 miles of trunk lines, with 213 subscribers over 303 miles of wire.

External communication is maintained by a regular fortnightly steamer service to and from Canada and the other West Indian islands, and by a monthly service via Martinique to Europe by the steamers of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique. There are also frequent mail opportunities via Barbados and the United States of America, and direct to Europe. The steamers of Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co., call regularly on their way from and to New York via the northern islands.

Telegraphic communication was maintained throughout the year by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Ltd., and on 1st December, 1924, the Pacific Cable Board took over from the Government the wireless station on the Morne, thereby commencing their service in this Colony. On the same date the Government subsidy to the West India and Panama Company ceased.

G. D. MACKIE,
Acting Administrator.

St. Lucia,

20th August, 1925.

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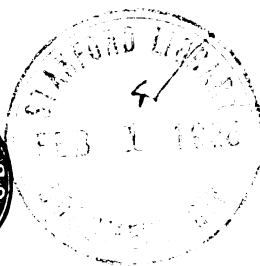
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1269.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1924-25.

*For Reports for 1922-23 and 1923-24 see Nos. 1178 (Price 6d.)
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1925.

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No. 1269.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924-25.*

I. Historical and Geographical.

Proclamation of British Protectorate.—During the year 1885 Sir Charles Warren, who was in command of an expedition dispatched from England to pacify Southern Bechuanaland, where for some time previously hostilities had been proceeding between the Bechuana and Boers from the South African Republic, visited the principal Chiefs in Northern Bechuanaland (known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate), namely, Khama, Gasietsiwe and Sebele; and as a result a British Protectorate was proclaimed over their territories. No further steps were taken until the year 1891, when, by an Order in Council, dated the 9th May, the limits of the Bechuanaland Protectorate were more clearly defined, and the High Commissioner for South Africa was authorised to appoint such officers as might appear to him to be necessary to provide for the administration of justice, the raising of revenue, and generally for the peace, order, and good government of all persons within the limits of the Order. Sir Sydney Shippard, the Administrator of Bechuanaland, was appointed Resident Commissioner. An Assistant Commissioner was also appointed for the Southern Protectorate and another for the Northern Protectorate, the laws in force in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope on the 10th June, 1891, being declared in force in the Territory, *mutatis mutandis*, and so far as not inapplicable. Subsequent legislation has been effected by proclamation of the High Commissioner.

Relations with the British South Africa Company.—For fiscal and other purposes the Protectorate was treated as a portion of the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland until the 15th November, 1895, when the latter was annexed to the Cape Colony. In the autumn of that year arrangements were made for the transfer of the administration of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, with the exception of certain reserves for native Chiefs, to the British South Africa Company. The country occupied by the Bamalete tribe, and so much of the Bora-Tshidi Barolong country as lies within the limits of the Protectorate, were transferred to the Administration of the British South Africa Company; Dr. L. S. Jameson being appointed Resident Commissioner therefor. The Company's police were moved down to a camp in the Protectorate.

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 857; [Od. 7622-48].

at Pitsani Potlugo. From that spot, on the 29th December, Dr. Jameson crossed the border of the South African Republic with his police, and marched towards Johannesburg, which was at that time in a state of great unrest. Being defeated by the Boers at Doornkop, he surrendered on the 2nd January, 1896. In consequence of this raid, the administration of the two areas above referred to was re-transferred to the Imperial Government, by whom the Protectorate, in its entirety, is still governed under the name of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. It includes the Tati District, which is a portion of old Matabeleland conceded in 1887 by Lobengula to Mr. S. H. Edwards.

Proclamation of Crown Lands.—In 1895 the Chiefs Khama, Sebele, and Bathoen visited England, and each of them abandoned all rights and jurisdiction in and over certain portions of his former territory. The lands thus abandoned by them were, by Order in Council dated the 16th May, 1904, declared Crown Lands, and all rights of His Majesty in or in relation thereto were vested in the High Commissioner for South Africa, who was empowered to make grants or leases of such land on such terms and conditions as he might think fit, subject to any directions received from one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State. Title to these lands was subsequently granted to the British South Africa Company, subject to certain reservations, and these lands are now known as the Tuli, Gaberones, and Lobatsi Blocks of farms.

By virtue of the Order in Council dated the 10th January, 1910, all other land situate within the limits of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, elsewhere than in the Tati District, was, and still is, vested in His Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa, subject to all the provisions of the Order in Council of the 16th May, 1904, and to the following exceptions:—

(1) Such land as is either:—

(a) included in any native reserve duly set apart by Proclamation; or

(b) the subject of any grant duly made by or on behalf of His Majesty; and

(2) the forty-one farms known as "The Barolong Farms," held by members of the Barolong tribe by virtue of certificates of occupation issued by the Chief Montsioa on the 28th March, 1895.

Later Developments.—During the period 1896-97, the existing railway line connecting the Union of South Africa with Rhodesia was constructed by the Bechuanaland Railway Company, authorised thereto by High Commissioner's proclamations.

In 1898 a limited number of farms were allotted at and in the neighbourhood of Ghanzi, in the north-western corner of the Territory, to settlers, some of whom had trekked thereto as prospectors, in 1894.

In 1899 the boundaries of the Bamangwato, Batawana, Bakgatla, Bakwena, and Bangwaketsi native tribes were established and defined by proclamation, and in 1909 the boundaries of the Bamalete native reserve were similarly fixed.

In 1911 the Tati Concessions, Limited, and its successors and assigns, were confirmed by Proclamation No. 2 of 1911 in the full, free and undisturbed possession as owners of all the land within the Tati District, subject to all the terms and conditions of the said Proclamation, certain lands being assigned as a reserve for the occupation of natives. This reserve is under the control of the Government. The natives residing within it hold and occupy the land included therein, subject to such rules and regulations as are from time to time proclaimed by the High Commissioner; and, subject to certain conditions safeguarding the interests of the natives, the Company (now the Tati Company, Limited) retains the mining rights (including precious stones) over this native reserve.

Boundaries.—The territory of the Bechuanaland Protectorate is bounded on the south and east by the Union of South Africa, on the north-east by Southern Rhodesia, on the north by the Zambesi and Chobe (Linyanti) Rivers, and on the west by the territory of South West Africa.

It has not been surveyed as a whole, but its area is estimated at 275,000 square miles. Its mean altitude is about 3,300 feet.

In view of the geographical position of that part of the mandated territory of South West Africa east of longitude 21° E., known as Caprivi Zipfel, it was found expedient to provide in 1922 that the latter should be administered as if it were a portion of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The Bechuanaland Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into the following Districts, with a Resident Magistrate at the head of each:—

- N'gamiland (Headquarters Mauñ).
- Chobe (Headquarters Kasane).
- Ngwato (Headquarters Serowe).
- Gaberones (Headquarters Gaberones).
- Lobatsi (Headquarters Lobatsi).
- Ghanzi (Headquarters Gemsbok Pan).
- Francistown (Headquarters Francistown).
- Tuli Block (Headquarters Selika).
- Kweneng (Headquarters Molepolole).
- Ngwaketsi (Headquarters Kanye).
- Kgalagadi (Headquarters Lehututu).

In addition the Assistant Resident Commissioner is Chief Magistrate for the Protectorate, and, as such, has all the powers of an Assistant Commissioner or Resident Magistrate throughout the Territory.

II. General Events of the Year.

During July, 1924, the Union Government Cotton Breeder at Rustenburg Experiment Station visited the Protectorate for the purpose of giving instruction to European farmers in regard to cotton growing where the conditions were suitable to such cultivation. He lectured at Lobatsi, Mahalapye, Francistown and Tsessebe and visited some of the farms in the neighbourhood of those places. At the special request of the Chief Sekgoma he also lectured at Serowe. His report indicated generally that the average rainfall in the Protectorate was scarcely sufficient to ensure the best results, but that, given proper management of the soil, and planting not later than October, experiments in each of the localities mentioned might be well worth while.

Consequently cotton has been sown fairly extensively by the European farmers and promises well. The native population has been advised to defer planting cotton until the result of the experiments by Europeans are more definitely known.

Gagoañwe, the Queen Mother of the Bangwaketse, died on the 20th September. Since the death of her son, Chief Gaseitswe, in 1916, she had, with the assistance of an Acting Chief and latterly a Council of six Headmen, ruled the tribe, the future Chief, Bathoëñ, being still a minor. She was a woman of sterling character and ruled wisely. In the functions exercised by her she was succeeded by her daughter Ntebogañ.

Linchwe, Chief of the Bakgatla, died on the 25th October at an advanced age. During the last few years his health had not permitted him to take any active part in the affairs of the tribe. He was the last of the Chiefs of the Territory who were alive when it first came under the protection of the British flag, and he rendered valuable services not only to his people but also to the Government, and was a wise and good Chief. Linchwe was succeeded by his grandson Kgafella, a minor, during whose minority Isang Pilane, Linchwe's second son, continues to act as Chief.

LOCUST DESTRUCTION CAMPAIGN.

The locust campaign, begun in 1922, has been continued through the year 1924-25 with good results, due largely to the careful organisation of the work before the rains set in.

In general the outbreak occurred over larger areas and was very much heavier than in previous years, particularly in the Tati District. To meet the need, however, the European Locust Staff was increased, notably by two additional Senior Locust Officers for the Northern and Southern Protectorate respectively and by the appointment also of a larger number of native Headmen.

As last year, the Territory was divided into Locust Districts, each under the supervision of its appointed District Locust Officer, and with both European and native Local Locust Officers.

In the waterless, remote and sparsely populated areas the difficulties have been severe, but, so far as has been possible, both European farmers and native Chiefs have co-operated with the Protectorate Officers in the work of extermination, as have also the Locust Officers from the Union along the borders.

The Government spray lorries have proved of the greatest service, and in the N'gamiland, Ghanzi, and Lehututu Districts the locust birds, maggots, and a disease known as empusa have appreciably assisted in the work of destruction.

The Senior Locust Officer reports that "the campaign has been a great success. The whole of the Protectorate, excepting a small area in the southern Kalahari, is now completely free from any locusts, and unless there is an invasion from the south and south-west, where locusts are still present, there will be no locust campaign in the north next season. . . . In all, 37,575 swarms of voegtangers (hoppers) have been destroyed in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. The number of swarms destroyed this season is less than last year, but the dimensions of the swarms on an average were more than double those of last season; for instance, 92 three-gallon drums of poison, diluted 1 in 50, have been used on practically one swarm of locusts sprayed by one of the lorries."

The campaign cost approximately £21,229, not including poison, pumps, barrels, &c.

During August and September a party, consisting of the Under-Secretary for Agriculture of the Union of South Africa, the Senior Locust Officer, a representative of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, the Union Government Entomologist, an Officer of the Union Air Force and a Mechanical Engineer, toured the Protectorate in a motor-car specially constructed for desert travel for the purposes of locating what was believed to be the principal breeding ground of the locusts, of ascertaining the best means of tackling the locusts of the desert, whether by road or by air, and generally of studying locust conditions in the desert.

The expedition first proceeded to Molepolole, then to Lephephe, proceeding as far westwards from those places as their petrol could take them. At Francistown the expedition divided, one section proceeding by waggon to Serowe, the other section taking the car via Nekati and the Makarikari, both joining again at the N'gamiland border at Makalamabadi. They then proceeded through N'gamiland to Ghanzi, where, after further short journeys eastwards into the desert, the tyres of their car became too worn for further use.

The result of the expedition was generally satisfactory and most useful information was obtained, although no particular hatching ground of locusts was discovered, and the great unmapped supposed waterless area in the heart of the Protectorate remained practically unexplored.

III. Financial.

The estimated revenue for the year was £95,975; the actual amount collected was £99,581, or £3,606 more than the estimate.

Customs revenue showed a substantial increase over the estimate, the excess amounting to £2,749, and under the heads Hut Tax, Posts, Licences, European Poll Tax, Rentals and Transfer Duty, Export Duty on Cattle and Fees, and Miscellaneous, the excesses were respectively £374, £634, £53, £70, £140, £585 and £104.

Under the heads Revenue Stamps, Judicial Fines, and Income Tax, short-falls occurred respectively as follows:—£181, £274, £364, while the contribution for the Native Fund was £234 less than the estimate.

The estimated expenditure was £94,303, and the actual expenditure amounted to £87,373, or £6,930 less than the estimate.

Revenue exceeded expenditure by £12,208.

IV. Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

The natives of the Bechuanaland Protectorate are mainly engaged in cattle rearing. The distribution among the various tribes of pure-bred bulls, purchased out of a fund maintained by the natives themselves, and the restriction of cattle exportations to the Union to a certain weight of animal, have contributed in different ways to the improvement of native stock. For veterinary reasons the export of cattle to the Union is further restricted to consignments intended for approved abattoirs and (without restriction as to weight) for export overseas, while to South West Africa and Southern Rhodesia it is absolutely prohibited. There is unrestricted export through Northern Rhodesia to the Belgian Congo, except that, in order to conserve the grazing on their side, the Government of the former territory require that cattle so exported shall not exceed a fixed number in one year, but numbers of Protectorate cattle also find their way to the Congo market through Angola. As a result of all these restrictions, some of which are of recent imposition, the cattle trade is not yet as flourishing as it might be, and, indeed, during the period under review suffered a diminution of some 25 per cent. in numbers.

The export of sheep and goats, on the other hand, showed an increase all round of 13 per cent., for which a considerably increased export to the Union was mainly responsible, exportations to Rhodesia having fallen off over 20 per cent.

There is also a small export of pigs, mostly to the Union, which showed improvement.

The markets have been generally good.

The financial year opened with a bad drought, and a heavy locust infestation did serious damage to such grazing as survived. Had not the succeeding rainy season been a record one the trade in live stock must have been extremely poor having regard to the cattle restrictions as to weight.

Yet drought has one compensation, the hides and skins of the stock which die of starvation are marketable and these were exported to the value of £22,117, as compared with £16,400 in the previous year.

The trade in dairy products carried on by the European settlers is promising. The exports, as compared with the previous year, are as follows:—

	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£
Cheese	3,466	2,844
Butter	202	235
Butterfat and Cream ...	14,303	20,359

Skins and karosses of wild animals were exported to the value of £12,819, as compared with £5,582 in the previous year.

There is a considerable export of firewood, i.e., dead trees, bringing into the Territory some £4,000 a year.

The only minerals produced are gold and silver in the Tati District. They both showed a large decrease: 1,372 oz. of gold and 250 oz. of silver, valued at £5,786, as against 3,040 oz. of gold and 661 oz. of silver, valued at £12,838, in the previous year.

Crops, as a result of the plentiful rains, though to some extent damaged by rot, yielded a handsome surplus over the food requirements of the native population, for which they are normally grown, and with the aid of very substantial reductions which have been made in the railway rates, an export trade in grain may be established, if market conditions permit.

As an experiment, cotton has been sown fairly extensively by European settlers, with encouraging results.

The reduced railway export rates for grain are also applicable to dried locusts and, as a market exists for this commodity in Holland, there are possibilities of trade developments in this direction, as the natives will readily collect them, but an expensive supply of bags would seem to be necessary unless the railways can accept the traffic without them. At present the locusts collected and traded are found to be valuable food for cattle and poultry.

In this connection it may not be out of place to mention that payments by the Union Government for locust destruction in the Territory amounted to over £20,000 as against about £5,000 in the previous year.

The business done at the traders' stores in the Territory has shown much improvement during the year. The goods imported by these stores amounted to £220,000 against £166,000 in 1923-24.

V. Legislation.

Twenty Proclamations were promulgated during the year 1924-25.

Two of these related to the appropriation of funds to meet expenditure, and six concerned the revenue of the Territory—re-enacting or amending the laws for the collection of Income Tax or Poll Tax, amending the duties payable in respect of General Dealers' Licences, further amending the Tariff of Customs and Excise in force in the Territory, and providing for the payment in certain cases of Licence Duties by Commercial Travellers within the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

In connection with the Public Service, one Proclamation amended the law governing appointments to and promotions in the Service, and four consolidated or amended the rules and regulations concerning the granting of pensions and of superannuation and other allowances to European members of the Civil branch of the Administration and of the Police Force, respectively.

With regard to Public Health and the general welfare and prosperity of the Territory, provision was made for preventing the introduction into, and the spread therein, of infectious or contagious diseases, and for the better maintenance of order and prevention of offences on the railway within the Territory, and further regulations were made for the preservation of the public roads and for the eradication of the disease of lung sickness amongst cattle.

Other Proclamations modified the Opium and Habit-Forming Drugs Regulations; applied the laws of South West Africa relating to prospecting and mining for precious and base minerals and precious stones to the Caprivi Zipfel; and amended the Masters' and Servants' Acts 1856-1889 of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope as in force in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, so as to include persons engaged in mining within the scope of such Acts, and to make failure to pay wages, in certain events, penal.

There has been no Session of the Special Court since the 15th May, 1919.

VI. Education.

During the year 1924-25 there were in the Bechuanaland Protectorate twelve schools for Europeans, attended by approximately 200 children, and 85 native schools, mostly under the aegis of the Missionary Societies, attended by approximately 5,682 children.

The schools for European children received Government grants-in-aid; the sum provided for this purpose for the year under review being £2,441, of which £1,523 was actually expended. Bursaries to the amount of £159 10s. 0d. were also granted to certain Europeans in respect of the education of their children outside the Territory.

The London Missionary Society received a grant of £300 towards native education from the general revenue of the Territory, and also a grant of £240 from the Native Fund, while the sum of £150 was donated to the Tiger Kloof Institution for the training of native teachers. Native schools with the exception of the National School at Mochudi have been mainly financed by the Native Fund, from which the amount of £4,320 has been expended on education generally and the upkeep of school buildings.

In addition to their contributions to the Native Fund, the Bamangwato have almost entirely defrayed the expenses in connection with their school at Serowe, which is a very fine one with a large attendance.

New native schools were opened during the year at Kue, Pitsani Pothlugo and Ghanzi.

Most of the schools, both European and native, are under the control of School Committees generally presided over by the Resident Magistrate of the District, who pays periodical visits of inspection.

The Inspector of Schools in the Protectorate, who is the Director of Education in Basutoland, carried out his annual visit of inspection of the European Schools (with the exception of Ghanzi) and of about 30 of the native schools during the winter months.

With regard to the latter he reports that, in ordinary elementary subjects of instruction, a general all-round improvement has taken place in the schools in the larger stadts and also to some extent in the schools in the outlying villages. This he attributes to the introduction of better-qualified teachers from outside the Protectorate. He emphasises also the importance of the experiment being worked out in the new National School at Mochudi, where the Bakgatla tribe have established in their midst more efficient and up-to-date educational methods which bid fair to provide a useful training ground for native teachers for the Protectorate, and an antidote to the process of tribal disruption which must of necessity take place where the children of the Territory are sent for higher education beyond the boundaries of their native homes.

Of the European schools the Inspector reports that the work generally is very satisfactory, especially when taking into consideration the fact that only rarely can the services of trained and qualified teachers be obtained for such remote and isolated districts, wherein wide and useful experience and opportunities

of promotion are practically non-existent. He advocates that the whole system of Government grants to European schools should be revised and placed upon a more satisfactory basis, which proposal has been referred, for full discussion, to the next meeting of the European Advisory Council.

VII. Medical.

The health of the Territory has been very good throughout the year.

The relative incidence of disease remains the same : malaria, syphilis and bronchial affections prevailing in the order given. The high place occupied by catarrhal diseases of the chest cannot, however, be assigned to them as separate entities. They are often the concurrent or remote manifestations of malarial infection; which thus, as always, maintains its great preponderance.

There have been no acute, severe or widespread outbreaks of fever or epidemic disease, except 8 cases (1 European) of cerebro-spinal meningitis which occurred at different centres of which 7 terminated fatally. Such other diseases as have been prevalent were comparatively mild, and unattended with unusual mortality from intercurrent or pulmonary complications.

During the year the rainfall has been the heaviest within the last two decades. This would presume, *prima facie*, an increase in malarial incidence. But it is not necessarily in seasons of heaviest rainfall that fever and its attendant complications and *sequelae* take their heaviest toll—it is in seasons of drought and scarcity, with their consequent lowered standards of living and powers of resistance. With the heavier rainfall there is a corresponding improvement in grazing conditions and an abundance of staple agricultural products. This, in a cattle and maize and millet country, raises the standard of living almost from the outset, and maintains it—*pari passu*. The resistance to prevalent disease, among the native population, is increased, and reflected accordingly.

There is evidence, in the steady increase of applications for anti-syphilitic remedies at the various centres throughout the Territory, of a growing eagerness to benefit by the provision of free treatment of venereal disease. At Molepolole alone, where a Government Dispenser has been in charge for the past nine months, 500 cases have been treated. From Mochudi, where, in the absence of a Government dispensary, the issuing of medicines is entrusted to the representatives of the Dutch Reformed Mission, the reports are equally favourable. Although no statistics have been submitted, the nurse in charge of the Mission dispensary reports that the demand for free treatment is very great : a fact confirmed by the Gaberones Medical Officer during his monthly visits. At Kanye, 464 cases have been treated. A fresh extension of the work is contemplated in visits by the District Surgeon, Kanye, to Moshupa and Manyana. In

the northern part of the Territory, owing to changes and interruptions throughout the medical service, exact statistics are not available. But the reports from various reliable sources are all encouraging, and, with the gradual completion and stabilizing of the medical service, and increased resources for accumulating stocks of the necessary novo-arsenical preparations, the possibilities, in this particular field, are very great, and to a large extent realisable.

The death of one of the Medical Officers during the year under review led to a certain amount of disorganisation. The consequent changes and service requirements have been met by a temporary arrangement; the permanent re-adjustment to be postponed pending the selection of a suitable all-time officer.

An important step in the extension of the medical service during the year has been the appointment of a Medical Officer to N'gamiland.

Discussions have taken place as to the possibility of making a beginning with the building of small modern hospitals at one or two of the principal centres, and, financial circumstances permitting, provision will be made on this behalf in the next estimates.

The daily average of patients treated at Gaberones during the year was 7.78, of whom 0.01 were Europeans, making the total number of treatments 2,346.

The prevalence of plague, bubonic and pneumonic, in certain portions of the Union contiguous to the Territory, and particularly at De Aar and Kimberley, which are situated on the direct line of railway from the south, prompted the Administration to take certain precautionary measures, both within and without the Territory. For some time past the most effective trap procurable for both rats and mice has been in use in all public offices, stores and buildings, and monthly returns of captures are rendered to and collated by the Principal Medical Officer. The European officials and other residents of the Territory were also made alive to the need for destroying rodents wherever seen. In March, particulars as to the life-history of the flea and the several methods of destroying the insect were disseminated amongst the inhabitants of the Territory, European and native, with a plain intimation that fleas were the carriers to human beings of plague germs from plague-infected rodents and other furred animals, and an intensive campaign of destruction was encouraged. The Resident Commissioner, at the meeting of the Native Advisory Council, uttered a solemn warning to the Chiefs as to the vital importance of such a campaign, seeing that at any moment the railway line could be the means of introducing into the Territory from a plague-infected area of the Union a person carrying the germs of the disease. The response from both sections of the population was most satisfactory, the natives generally evincing a readiness to bear the small cost entailed to the individual.

Outside the Territory the Principal Medical Officer has constantly, whenever the plague menace has seemed most severe, kept in close touch with the Union health and railway authorities, and has urged upon them the necessity of taking effective measures to prevent the movement of natives from plague-infected areas to the Territory. He has under consideration a scheme for preparing and assembling in advance all the essential elements of an organisation which would be capable of dealing with plague in the Territory, should an outbreak suddenly occur. In this respect he is fortunate in having the assistance, temporarily, of Doctor P. Targett-Adams, M.R.C.S., D.P.H., late Medical Officer of Health for the Orange Free State, whose experience of plague in the Union is almost unrivalled.

VIII. Veterinary.

Lung Sickness.—The period under review has been marked by a large increase in cases of contagious pleuro-pneumonia (lung sickness) in the Territory.

The year opened with 980 animals in quarantine on 1st April. During June this number was increased to 8,923 and soon reached 10,936.

By concentrated and sustained effort the number was reduced to 1,450 by 31st December: but unfortunately the disease again assumed large proportions (the number of cases increased to 9,400 by 31st March, 1925), being accentuated by the abnormally wet season experienced throughout the Territory and the unsettled state of the area occupied by the Mafirwa.

The number of fresh outbreaks dealt with was 75, and 23,294 animals were inoculated, of which 358 animals died from the effects of inoculation.

There were 437 animals destroyed under Proclamation No. 2 of 1909, for which £250 7s. 10d. was paid in compensation; 811 animals died from other causes (chiefly poverty, during October).

An endeavour was made during the year to produce an artificial virus by subcutaneous inoculation of calves. Eleven experiments were carried out in this connection, but although a good virus was obtained in eight of the experiments the quantity was disappointing.

One animal produced thirty-six ounces, but in the remainder the amount was very much less, often being only two to three ounces.

It is probable, however, that with the experience gained and improvement in the procedure further work will largely increase the amount of virus which it is possible to obtain by this method.

A notable addition to veterinary literature with regard to the detection of the "old lunger" has recently been made by Mr. J. Walker, the Chief Veterinary Research Officer of Kenya Colony.

As is well known, the subacute form of lung sickness and the recovered animal (the lunger) are almost impossible to detect. The risk of infection being maintained and in some cases spread by the latter at a much later date is well recognised.

It is therefore apparent that if a laboratory test could be applied to the blood of such animals, and the "lunger" detected, one of the greatest obstacles to the eradication of the disease would be removed.

Various methods had been previously tried, notably the agglutination test by Heslop and "The deviation of the complement" by Bordet and Gengon.

The technique of these tests were highly intricate and results were not altogether satisfactory, so that Mr. Walker investigated the value of a conglutination reaction to demonstrate the existence or otherwise of specific complement, fixing anti-bodies which are the sequel to an attack of lung sickness or are present when an animal has been successfully inoculated.

The results of Mr. Walker's experiments may be summarised by stating that some "lungers" could be detected up to twelve months after infection, and in cattle inoculated with lung sickness virus, in which a marked reaction had occurred, up to seven months following inoculation.

The laboratory work is highly technical, and improvements will have to be made before the test can be brought into general practice.

Anthrax and Quarter Evil.—These diseases have occurred in similar proportions to previous years.

Liver Disease of Calves.—What was first reported as calf pneumonia, but which on investigation showed the most prominent changes to have occurred in the liver, has caused heavy calf mortality throughout the Territory.

The blood in many cases showed heavy infection with red-water and gall sickness parasites, and inoculation against these diseases was at first advised.

Later, Professor Viljoen carried out investigation in the Marico Districts, and found that organisms of the paratyphoid group could be isolated from the blood and organs in nearly every case. From these organisms a vaccine was prepared which has been used with some success.

The disease appears to have assumed a contagious nature in the Protectorate, for it spread from Lobatsi and Gaberones Districts to the Tuli Block, and has now reached the Tati Territory.

EXPORT OF CATTLE.

The following cattle were exported from the Protectorate during the year :—

To the Johannesburg Abattoir	17,993
To the Belgian Congo (via Kazungula) ...	6,669
To the Belgian Congo (by road ex Ngamiland)	500
Total	25,162

These figures show a decrease of 7,544 head on those of the previous year, and are chiefly accounted for by the partial embargo (minimum 800 lb. live weight and to dress 50 per cent. of the live weight) imposed by the Union Government. The export to the Congo via Kazungula shows an increase of 350 head on the figures of the previous year.

EXPORT : OTHER ANIMALS.

Sheep and goats to the number of 14,157 were exported to the Union via Ramathlabama, and 9,185 by rail to Rhodesia; 1,459 pigs were exported to the Union and Rhodesia, being an increase of 990 over the previous year.

IMPORTATIONS

Permits for the importation of the following animals were issued during the year :—

Cattle	1,019 head.
Sheep and goats	1,194 „
Donkeys	2,355 „
Horses	522 „
Mules	194 „
Pigs	19 „

VACCINES.

The following vaccines for the control of animal diseases were obtained and forwarded for use in the Territory during the year :—

Anthrax Vaccine	18,880 doses.
Quarter Evil Filtrate	2,050 „
Redwater and Gall Sickness	8 „
Horse Sickness Serum	28/10 litres.

Of wire worm remedy 4,650 doses were used.

IX. Judicial Statistics.

The number of cases adjudicated upon by Officials of the Administration during the year 1924-25 was 715, as against 590 in 1923-24 and 736 in 1922-23.

There were five cases of homicide; in two of these cases the accused were sentenced to death, the sentences being commuted by the High Commissioner to two and four years' imprisonment

with hard labour, respectively; in the three remaining cases the accused were convicted of culpable homicide and sentenced in each case to imprisonment with hard labour.

There were 75 cases of other offences against the person, in 63 of which conviction followed; 138 offences against property with 118 convictions; and 497 prosecutions for other crimes and offences, in which 438 convictions followed.

X. Postal Statistics.

The administration and control of the postal services in the Bechuanaland Protectorate are, subject to the authority of the Resident Commissioner, vested in the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa.

Offices.—There were 22 offices of all grades in operation in the Territory during the year ended 31st March, 1925. Money-order and savings bank business was transacted at three of these, five were postal and telegraph agencies, one a telegraph office only, and the remainder postal order agencies.

Money-orders.—The value of the money-order transactions for the year shows an increase, both in issues and payments, over the value of those issued and paid, respectively, during the preceding year.

Orders to the number of 365, valued at £3,064 3s. 6d. were issued, as against 298 of the value of £2,481 10s. 3d., and 195 money-orders to the value of £1,022 0s. 8d. were paid out, as against 182, valued at £971 16s. 2d. in the year 1923-24.

Postal Orders.—The value of postal orders issued and paid during the year under review shows a considerable increase over the value of issues and outpayments during the previous financial year. Orders numbering 12,720 worth £5,128 7s. 10d., as against 10,341 valued at £4,148 2s. 5d. in the preceding year, were issued, and 3,272 of a value of £2,009 16s. 11d. were paid out, as compared with 2,548, valued at £1,535 11s. 9d., during the year 1923-24.

Savings Bank.—With regard to the Savings Bank, an appreciable increase is shown both in respect of the amounts deposited and of those withdrawn, 218 deposits valued at £1,990 14s. 0d. being made, as against 160 deposits of the value of £928 19s. 5d., whilst 44 withdrawals, worth £726 8s. 11d., were effected in comparison with 30, valued at £598 11s. 5d., in the previous year.

Revenue and Expenditure.—The total postal revenue from all sources amounted to £12,258 17s. 1d., being a decrease of £1,203 17s. 6d. compared with the revenue collected during the year 1923-24.

The expenditure for the year under review amounted to £4,511 4s. 11d., being a decrease of £74 8s. 4d. compared with the expenditure for the corresponding twelve months in 1923-24.

XI. Meteorological.

The average aggregate monthly rainfall for all stations for the year ended 31st March, 1925, was as follows:—

1924.							<i>Inches.</i>
April							·077
May							·293
June							—
July							—
August							·016
September							·308
October							1·302
November							2·933
December							5·804
1925.							
January							4·753
February							4·468
March							6·401
Total							26·355

The monthly average minimum and maximum temperatures at the various Magistracies through the year were as follows:—

1924.				<i>Minimum degrees.</i>	<i>Maximum degrees.</i>
April				55·10	81·40
May				48·02	77·88
June				40·97	74·06
July				38·67	72·82
August				43·24	77·34
September				52·54	84·35
October				58·38	85·21
November				62·39	85·10
December				62·05	81·21
1925.					
January				62·02	83·36
February				63·37	82·54
March				62·37	78·68

The Bechuanaland Protectorate lies, roughly, between 2,000 and 5,000 ft. above sea-level, and only a few people live at the cooler altitudes of from 4,000 to 5,000 ft. The portion of the country inhabited by the greater number of both Europeans and natives is adjacent to the only line of railway, which passes through the eastern side of the Territory for a distance of 403 miles; the average altitude of the stations and sidings along this section of the line is 3,418 ft.

C. L. O'B. DUTTON,

31st March, 1925.

Government Secretary.

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REPORT FOR 1924.

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No. 1270.**BRITISH GUIANA.**

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1924.

I. Situation and Area.

The Colony of British Guiana, which it is interesting to note is the only British Possession on the South American Continent, lies between the first and ninth degrees of North latitude and the fifty-seventh and sixty-first degrees of West longitude, and has a seaboard of roughly 270 miles, extending from near the mouth of the Orinoco River on the west to the Corentyne River on the east. The Colony is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south and south-west by Brazil, on the east by the Dutch Colony of Surinam, and on the west by Venezuela, and is divided into the three counties of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice. It has an area of approximately 90,000 square miles, of which only about 198 square miles along the coast and up the river are cultivated.

II. Climate.

The climate, although warm, is distinctly cooler than that of other British Colonies in tropical latitudes, and Europeans and other northern races enjoy consistently good health. The mean temperature throughout the year 1924 was 80·5° F., the mean maximum being 85·8° F., and the mean minimum 75·1° F. The heat, which is greatly tempered by cooling breezes from the sea, is felt most from July to October, owing to decreased force of these breezes. There are annually two wet seasons, from April to the middle of August and during December and January. The annual rainfall for the past forty-four years averaged 91·9 in. in Georgetown. The rainfall in 1924 was 83·54 in.

III. History and Constitution.

The Colony was first partially settled between 1616 and 1621 by the Dutch West India Company, who erected a fort and depot at Fort Kyk-over-al in the present County of Essequibo. In 1624 a settlement was founded on the Berbice River by Van Peere, a Flushing merchant, under licence from the Company. The first English attempt at settlement was made by

Captain Leigh on the O'apock River (now French Guiana) in 1604. The effort, though followed up by Robert Harcourt in 1613 and 1627, failed to establish a permanent settlement. Lord Willoughby, famous in the early history of Barbados, also turned his attention to Guiana and founded a settlement in Surinam in 1663, which was captured by the Dutch in 1667 and ceded to them at the Peace of Breda in exchange for New York. The Dutch retained their hold on the three colonies with more or less firmness, now yielding to England, now to France or Portugal, till 1796, when during the war of the French Revolution they were captured by a British fleet sailing from Barbados. The territory was restored to the Dutch in 1802, but in the following year was retaken by Great Britain, and finally ceded to that Power in 1814.

The Constitution, as it existed up to 1891, may be summed up very briefly. It consisted of a Governor, a Court of Policy, and a Combined Court. The functions of an Executive and Legislative Council and House of Assembly were performed by the Governor and Court of Policy, except as regards taxation and finance, which were and still are dealt with by the Combined Court, composed of the Governor and Members of the Court of Policy, together with six Financial Representatives. The Court of Policy makes all laws and ordinances, except the Annual Tax and Customs Duties Ordinances, which are passed by the Combined Court.

During 1891 an Act was passed, which came into force in 1892, effecting a considerable change in the Constitution. By this Act the administrative functions of the Court of Policy were transferred to an Executive Council, and the duties of the former became purely legislative.

The Combined Court has the power of (1) imposing the Colonial taxes and auditing the public accounts, and (2) discussing freely and without reserve the items on the Annual Estimates prepared by the Governor. The first of these powers is the birthright of the Combined Court, having been bestowed in 1796, when Governor Beaujon called the Financial Representatives into being, "with a right of voting only for the raising of Colonial taxes and not further"; while the second is conferred periodically by His Majesty's Order in Council after each renewal of the Civil List, and is co-existent with the Civil List. During 1922 the Civil List was renewed for five years from the 1st January, 1923.

The Court of Policy, under the new Constitution, consists of the Governor, seven official members, and eight elected members. It may be prorogued or dissolved at any time by the Governor, and, in any case, is dissolved at the end of five years, and a

general election must be held within two months of the date of dissolution. The number of Financial Representatives, who with the Court of Policy form the Combined Court, remains unchanged (six).

IV. General Observations.

Generally speaking, trade during the year was satisfactory, for although in some cases—most notably in sugar—a considerable fall in value was recorded, yet the principal exports of the Colony showed an all-round increase in volume. For example, the quantity of rum exported was doubled, and there were also large increases in the shipments of molasses, rice, lumber, timber, railway sleepers, copra and balata. Trade within the Empire has continued to improve at the expense of foreign countries, including the United States of America, the imports from which place have been halved since pre-war days.

The area of land planted in canes, which was 57,814 acres in 1923, was reduced during the year under report to 57,190 acres. Notwithstanding this reduction and a severe drought which occurred in the early part of the year, 91,782 tons of sugar were made, as against 90,758 in the previous year. The prices obtained for sugar, however, barely exceeded the cost of production in many cases. 29,406 acres were planted in rice, as against 34,965 acres in 1923. The output of rice for the year was approximately 25,058 tons, as against 19,000 tons in 1923. The drought also affected the production of diamonds, and heavy rains later in the year further hampered operations, but in spite of these adverse circumstances 185,585 carats of a local value of £858,323 were mined in 1924, as against 214,474 of a local value of £1,033,014 in 1923.

There was a slight improvement in shipping during the year under report. The tonnage entered inwards was 590,158 tons, as compared with 537,396 tons in 1923, and the tonnage outwards was 593,404, as against 533,426.

The general health of the Colony was good, and there were no epidemics during the year.

Commenced in January, 1924, satisfactory progress has been made with the scheme for the main drainage of Georgetown. Ten out of twenty-five pumping stations have been completed, and five are in course of construction. About 90 per cent. of the rising mains and approximately 8 per cent. of the sewers have been laid, and 200 out of 600 manholes have been built. It has now been decided that the scheme shall include the replacement of existing sanitary arrangements in houses. Pending the raising of a loan, the expenditure in the Colony and in England on the scheme is being advanced to the Georgetown Town Council by the Government.

Due to difficulty experienced in obtaining a suitable site for the new Municipal Water Works, and later to other questions which called for settlement, it has not as yet been possible to make a commencement with the improvements which it is proposed to effect in connexion with the city's water supply.

The Colony's representation at the Empire Exhibition during 1924 gave general satisfaction in the Colony, and it is thought that the practical benefits to be derived will be considerable. It has been decided that British Guiana shall again participate in the Exhibition this year.

During the year a distinctly forward step was made by the appointment of a Trade Commissioner for British Guiana in London. Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E., until recently a Director of the firm of Booker Brothers, McConnell and Company, Limited, of this Colony and London, has been selected for the post, and in the work of pressing on public notice the Colony's products and the opportunities they offer for the expansion of British trade Mr. Cassels will be assisted by an Advisory Committee, consisting of :—

Sir Edward Davson,
Mr. G. Ball Greene, C.B.E., and
Mr. G. Russell Garnett,

with power to co-opt anyone from the Colony when in the United Kingdom.

A local Standing Committee has also been formed to advise generally in the work of the Trade Commissioner. This Committee consists of :—

The Colonial Secretary (Chairman),	
The Director of Science and Agriculture,	
The Commissioner of Lands and Mines,	
The President	} Chamber of Commerce.
The Vice-Presidents	

The new Conservator of Forests, when appointed, will also have a place on the Committee.

Suitable offices have been leased for the Agency at Abbey House, 9A, Tothill Street, Westminster.

The second Colonization Mission, which visited India during 1923–24, was afforded an opportunity of discussing the British Guiana Colonization Scheme of 1920 with the Special Committee on Emigration of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature. The Committee has reported favourably on the scheme, but has suggested to the Government of India that a delegate should visit the Colony to inquire into certain matters affecting the political and economic status of Indians in the Colony, and to go into the arrangements to be made for prospective settlers.

The coastal drainage and pure-water supply schemes were commenced during the year, and a considerable amount of work has been accomplished. On the east coast of Demerara a pumping plant has been erected at Plaisance, and has been put to work with most satisfactory results. Pumps for Beterverwagting and Triumph have been installed and set to work, and have been running smoothly for several months. Two necessary aqueducts are being constructed. The erection of pumping machinery for Buxton has been completed, and the pumps are working well. The building of concrete weirs and sluices in the districts to be drained is in progress, and considerable work has been done in connexion with the digging of drainage trenches. A large dipper dredger suitable for the canals in Essequebo has been purchased. As regards the pure-water supply scheme, which provides for the sinking of sixty artesian wells for the most populous villages and districts in the coastal belt of the Colony, the first well was successfully sunk at Mahaicony by the Public Works Department, with its own plant, and yields 51,200 gallons per day of 24 hours.

The removal of the Government buildings from Morawhanna in the North-West District to a healthier site on the Mabaruma Hills was commenced during the year, and an entirely new Public Hospital, Government Medical Officer's house, and Rest-house were erected.

During the year a Commission, including one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, was appointed to go into the whole question of education in the Colony, and to advise what changes should be made to secure better results. The Commission had not reported when the year closed. It is the general opinion that the Colony does not receive value for the money spent on the education of the masses.

In January, 1924, the Combined Court approved of the establishment of a Forestry Department. The technical staff of the new Department will include a Conservator of Forests, two Assistant Conservators, a Superintendent of Forest Surveys, and four Forest Surveyors. The creation of this Department is regarded as being of great importance to the development of the Colony, and it is a matter for regret that owing to difficulty experienced in finding an entirely suitable candidate for the post of Conservator the setting up of the Department has been much delayed.

During 1924 reconnaissance surveys were made of various practical routes for a road or railway to the Mazaruni diamond fields.

Proposals have been submitted to the Government by private interests for the construction of a railway in return for the grant of blocks of land along the route. No money payment or

guarantee from Government has been asked for. These proposals it was decided should be referred to a Commission which was being appointed to consider and advise on the general question of railway communication with the interior.

V. Vital Statistics.

The birth and death rates appearing in this Report have been calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Colony at the 31st December, 1924, which was 301,204, or 152,772 males and 148,432 females.

9,755 births—4,973 boys and 4,782 girls—were registered during the year. In 1923 the number was 9,109—4,653 boys and 4,456 girls.

The birth-rate was 32·4 per 1,000 of the population; that for 1923, 30·4; and for 1922, 27·8.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of each of the several races representing the community is as follows :—

Races.

Europeans other than Portuguese...	...	14·1	} 21·2
Portuguese ... ..	...	23·9	
East Indians ... ..	...	34·5	
Chinese ... ..	...	27·5	
Aborigines ... ..	...	34·3	
Blacks ... ..	...	29·9	
Mixed Races ... ..	...	37·4	

Of the births registered 4,412, or 45·2 per cent., were legitimate, and 5,343, or 54·8 per cent., illegitimate.

The deaths registered were 7,717—4,342 males and 3,375 females. In the previous year the figures were 8,468—4,727 males and 3,741 females.

The death-rate was 25·6 per 1,000 of the population. In 1923 it was 28·3, and in 1922, 29·1.

The death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of the various races is as follows :—

Races.

Europeans other than Portuguese...	...	13·1	} 25·2
Portuguese ... ..	...	29·8	
East Indians ... ..	...	27·7	
Chinese ... ..	...	20·7	
Aborigines ... ..	...	30·3	
Blacks ... ..	...	24·7	
Mixed Races ... ..	...	20·2	

Infantile Mortality.—The number of children who died under one year of age was 1,606, or 165 per 1,000 births for 1924, as compared with 1,609, or 177 per 1,000 births in 1923.

The following table shows the proportion of deaths of the children under one year of age of each race to every 1,000 births of each such race for the year under review :—

<i>Races.</i>				
Europeans other than Portuguese ...	...	...	44	} 141
Portuguese ...	...	...	163	
East Indians ...	...	...	163	
Chinese ...	...	...	171	
Aborigines ...	...	...	186	
Blacks ...	...	...	173	
Mixed Races ...	...	...	146	

VI. Government Finance.

REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1924 amounted to £1,056,238, exceeding the estimate by £747, and falling short of the revenue for the preceding financial year by £58,466.

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £1,065,457, being £54,926 less than the estimate, and £16,092 less than the expenditure for the previous year.

BALANCES.

The Balance Sheet of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £55,855, and that of the 31st December, 1924, a surplus of assets over liabilities of £46,636. The Estimate of Expenditure for 1924, together with the Supplementary Estimates, amounted to £1,120,383, exceeding the Revenue Estimate of £1,055,491 by £64,892. The actual expenditure incurred during the year exceeded the actual revenue received by £9,219, the financial transactions of the Colony for 1924 showing therefore a deficit of £9,219.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt at 31st December, 1923, amounted to £2,582,005. During the year £2,400 were redeemed, making a total loan indebtedness at 31st December, 1924, of £2,579,605. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £364,835.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as under :—

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1920	1,270,675	1,007,047
1921	968,947	1,195,847
1922	905,254	1,097,784
1923	1,114,704	1,081,549
1924	1,056,238	1,065,457

BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

Accounts are kept in dollars and cents. British sterling and United States gold coin are current and legal tender.

On the 16th August, 1915, the Combined Court approved of the issue of Government Currency Notes of the face value of \$1=4s. 2d. and \$2=8s. 4d. The first notes were issued in January, 1917; and on the 31st December, 1924, there were notes in circulation to the face value of £104,166 13s. 4d.

The Colonial Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada have establishments at Georgetown, with branches at New Amsterdam, Berbice. Both of these banks carry on savings bank business at their head offices in Georgetown.

The first Government Savings Banks were established at Georgetown and New Amsterdam in the year 1836, and the first Post Office Savings Banks in December, 1889. In November, 1910, the Combined Court passed a resolution approving of the amalgamation of these banks, and authorising the transfer of the Government Savings Bank to the Post Office as from the 1st July, 1911. Savings bank business is conducted at 51 post offices.

VII. Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports for the year 1924 (not including transit trade) amounted to £2,744,145, being £75,184 greater than the aggregate value of the imports of 1923.

The goods imported may be classified as follows :—

	1923 £	1924 £
1. Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	992,032	948,218
2. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	181,552	197,555
3. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	1,481,945	1,588,966
4. Miscellaneous and unclassified	8,250	7,451
5. Bullion and Specie	5,182	1,955

The value of the imports (not including transit trade) for the past five years averaged £3,140,273 per annum.

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports for the year ended 31st December, 1924, was £3,393,529. This amount includes British and foreign goods valued at £153,242 re-exported during the year. The value of the export trade was less than the previous year's transactions to the value of £364,118, or a decrease of 9·69 per cent.

The table below shows the value of the exports (excluding transit trade) under the five classes into which they naturally fall :—

	1923	1924
	£	£
1. Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2,276,384	1,963,735
2. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	1,326,085	1,244,423
3. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	127,053	164,206
4. Miscellaneous and unclassified	363	547
5. Bullion and Specie	27,762	20,618

There was a decrease of £365,677 in the value of sugar exported in 1924. The quantity was greater than that exported in 1923 by 2,729 tons, the figures for 1924 and 1923 being 85,896 tons, valued at £1,767,125, and 83,167 tons, valued at £2,132,802, respectively.

The quantity of rum shipped during the year was greater than the exports of 1923 by 348,308 proof gallons, and the value greater by £35,483. The exports for 1924 were 769,304 proof gallons, valued at £75,803, as against 420,996 proof gallons, valued at £40,321, exported in 1923. 422,484 proof gallons of the quantity exported in 1924 went to the United Kingdom.

The value of Colonial produce exported in the last five years averaged £3,658,735 per annum.

Sugar, rum, molascuit, molasses, rice, charcoal, copra, coffee, hides, balata gums, citrate of lime, diamonds, bauxite, essential oil of limes, coconuts, and coconut oil are the principal exports sent out of the Colony.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

The United Kingdom takes first place with 44·75 per cent. of the aggregate trade of the Colony, Canada is second with 32·19 per cent., and the United States occupies a third place with 9·74 per cent. This distribution of trade is different from the distribution which prevailed immediately prior to the War. In 1914 the Home Country had 57·40 per cent. of the Colony's trade, as against 44·75 in 1924; Canada in the former year secured

20·52 per cent., as against 32·19 per cent. in the latter year; whilst the United States' aggregate trade with the Colony fell from 10·91 per cent. in 1914 to 9·74 per cent. in 1924.

During the Great War a large proportion of trade which had formerly been done by the United Kingdom was diverted to the United States, but since the cessation of hostilities trade conditions with the former country have exhibited a tendency towards gradual improvement, and there is every possibility of greater expansion, provided that the class of goods for which Britain has always been noted can be supplied on the conditions demanded by trade, as the quality of British-made goods is so well known as to place them in the forefront of the world's manufactures. Therefore, with increased production it is reasonable to expect to see great improvement in British trade in the near future.

The aggregate trade done with Canada in 1924 was slightly more than in the previous year, that for 1924 being 32·19 per cent., as against 28·07 per cent. in 1923. Of the total quantity of sugar exported during the year, 70,169 tons went to Canada and the greater part of the balance to the United Kingdom.

AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

The sugar crop of the Colony for 1924 was 91,782 tons, as compared with 98,515 tons the average yield of the preceding ten years. The area reaped was 51,355 acres, the average yield of sugar being 1·78 tons per acre.

The returns submitted by sugar plantations in the Colony show that in 1924 57,190 acres were under sugar-cane. Of this area not less than 70 per cent. was planted with the D.625 variety of cane, whilst about 17 per cent. was planted with this cane mixed with Bourbon and seedling varieties. There were only about 323 acres planted with Bourbon unmixed with other canes.

The area devoted to the cultivation of rice was 29,406 acres, of which 10,848 acres yielded both spring and autumn crops. The total yield of padi was 41,764 tons, equivalent to about 25,058 tons of cleaned rice. The rice produced was of fair quality. 4,470 tons of rice were exported during the year 1924. Very large areas of the front lands of the Colony pre-eminently suited for the cultivation of rice are not so occupied.

Coconuts are planted on 25,200 acres of land. The export of nuts was 1,559,000, as compared with 2,650,000 in 1923. In addition 16,508 cwts. of copra and 21,804 gallons of coconut oil were exported, equivalent to 8,745,000 nuts, the total export of coconuts and their products being equal to 10,304,000 nuts. By far the greater number of nuts gathered, returned by the growers at 12,303,000, were used locally for the manufacture of coconut

oil, or directly as food. There is a very wide area of lighter soils on the front coast-lands suitable for planting with coconuts: on parts only of this area is coconut planting being carried on. The extension of such planting, unfortunately, has ceased during recent years.

The acreage returned as being under coffee was 5,685 acres. The export of coffee amounted to 4,581 cwts., as compared with 4,778 cwts. in 1923.

The acreage returned as being planted with cocoa was 1,900 acres. All the cocoa produced is used locally either in the preparation of chocolate or of confectionery. There are extensive belts of land in British Guiana well suited for cocoa-growing, and it is to be regretted that this cultivation does not extend.

The area devoted to the cultivation of limes during the year was about 700 acres.

The small Government factory for the preparation of lime products at Onderneeming, Essequibo, ceased working temporarily on account of unsatisfactory commercial results.

During the year, 9,650 gallons of concentrated lime-juice and 396 gallons of essential oil of limes were exported.

Owing to the ravages of the rubber-leaf disease and to the unremunerative value of rubber during the year, the acreage planted with Para rubber is reduced to 1,655 acres. By far the greater part of the acreage under Para rubber is not being cultivated, the trees being left to nature.

During recent years the increase on the agricultural production of British Guiana, which had been well marked from 1900 to 1918, ceased, and a notable decrease ensued from a total area under cultivation of, in round figures, 194,000 acres in 1918 to one of 126,200 in 1924.

This great decrease has been due largely to unpropitious seasons, accentuated by floodings of cultivated lands. The floods are caused not so much by exceptionally heavy rainfalls as by the highly unsatisfactory conditions regarding drainage which have arisen of late years in many parts of the front lands but which are now being ameliorated. Further reasons for the decrease are the low and unremunerative prices of almost all tropical agricultural products, and the paucity of available efficient labour, due largely to the cessation of East Indian immigration, to the very formidable visitation of influenza in December, 1918, and January, 1919, which materially affected the age periods (20 to 30 and 30 to 40) among males in the agricultural districts and which visitation reduced the population of the Colony by over 6,000 persons, and also to the migration of many of the more energetic

and venturesome of the native agriculturalists and peasant proprietors from cultivating the soil to the far more fascinating pursuit of searching for diamonds in the interior of the Colony.

There are large areas of land suitable for the raising of cattle. The number of cattle in the Colony, including 59,000 on the hinterland savannahs, was 113,300 in 1924, horses were returned at 1,800, sheep at 16,200, goats at 9,800, swine at 12,906, donkeys at 6,200, and mules at 2,300.

Of the total of 57,266,874 acres, comprising the whole of the Colony, the area alienated at the end of 1924 under grants, leases and licences for agricultural, grazing and timber purposes amounted to a total of 3,725,742 acres.

Eighty-one grants were issued, comprising a total area of 619 acres, of which eleven, embracing an area of 104 acres, were issued to returned soldiers.

Ninety-three leases, comprising 2,151 acres, were issued. Four of these comprised an aggregate area of 1,148 acres, the remainder for the most part being for small areas of an average of 10 acres.

The number of licences issued for wood-cutting purposes was 255, embracing an aggregate area of 163,633 acres.

The number of grants and concessions for mining purposes in existence at the end of 1924 was ten. The total number of claim licences (surface washing) in existence at 31st December, 1924, was :—

For gold, 578—of which 97 were issued during the year ;

For diamonds, 1,661—of which 987 were issued during 1924 ;

For gold and diamonds, 14—of which 8 were issued during 1924.

Five Exclusive Permissions (to prospect) were issued, bringing the total number of these titles in existence at 31st December last up to nine.

One thousand nine hundred and twenty general prospecting licences were issued.

The output of alluvial diamonds in 1924 was 185,585 $\frac{15}{16}$ carats of a total value of £858,323, a decrease of 28,888 $\frac{3}{4}$ carats on the 1923 production, due mainly to the unprecedented drought which prevailed during the first six months of the year.

A certain quantity of leather and cocoa is prepared for local consumption. Matches are made, and there is a large and well-equipped ice factory with cold storage accommodation.

One of the three ironwork foundries has good accommodation for the docking and repairing of steamers of small size. There is also a Government dry dock 160 ft. long and 35 ft. wide.

There are two well-equipped factories in Georgetown which manufacture boots and shoes of all descriptions for the local market. The larger is capable of turning out 600 pairs per week, while the smaller can handle 200 pairs.

Of two biscuit factories, one makes 250 barrels of biscuits per week and the other 200 barrels.

There are many aerated water factories established in Georgetown and New Amsterdam and at a few places in country districts. These manufacture aerated drinks, which find a ready sale locally.

FISHERIES.

There is room for considerable development in many directions, especially in sea-fishing, curing with the aid of ice, and in smoking.

A fair supply of sea-fish is generally kept at a large ice manufacturing establishment in Georgetown. In early times smoked or barbecued paku was obtained from the North-West District of the Colony in large quantities, but this is now rarely seen. Salt cod, herrings and mackerel are imported in quantity, but no Colony fishes are cured. Fresh-water fish is obtainable in the markets, but not to an extent to meet the demand. Only sometimes can a particular kind be obtained to order.

The angler may enjoy good sport with tarpon (or cuffum) as well as with several other fish that are more grateful to the palate. The river-fishing in the interior is exceptionally good.

Fish-glue or isinglass from the gilbaker was exported to the amount of 32,785 lb., value £2,060.

Crustaceans, such as crabs and prawns, add much to the food supply in the country districts. Now that imported fish is much higher in price the demand for fresh fish has increased without a corresponding increase in the supply; hence prices are generally higher.

VIII. Legislation.

There were 45 public Ordinances passed during the year. Of these the principal enactments are:—

(a) *The Pensions Ordinance, 1903, Amendment Ordinance, 1924 (No. 1).* The Pensions Ordinance, 1903, was based upon a model Pensions Ordinance of which, however, certain provisions were omitted. This amending Ordinance rectifies these omissions. Power is given the Governor-in-Council, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the

Colonies, to retire officers found to be unfit for the discharge of the duties of their offices. Such officers will be entitled to pension even if they have not served ten years, and the pension will be calculated at the rate actually due at the date of retirement. Provision is also made for granting a special allowance for tropical residence, and the age from which an officer shall be entitled to count his service for pension is reduced from 20 to 18 years.

(b) *The Harbour Board Ordinance, 1924 (No. 2)*. By this Ordinance the personnel of the Board is re-constituted. The Governor is relieved of the Chairmanship, and the Colonial Secretary takes his place. The Harbour Master no longer has a seat on the Board. The President of the Chamber of Commerce, or another member of the Council of the Chamber nominated by the Chamber, is given a seat on the Board. Provision is also made for the collection of berthing and landing charges at the Fort Groyne, and for the appointment of a Secretary. By the Harbours and Pilotage Ordinance, No. 39 of 1924, Tonnage, Light and other dues are now collected by the Secretary of the Board.

(c) *The Public Loan Ordinance, 1916, Amendment Ordinance, 1924 (No. 20)*. This Ordinance increases the Colony's borrowing powers from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

(d) *The Gambling Prevention Ordinance, 1902, Amendment Ordinance, 1924 (No. 21)*. This Ordinance excludes from the provisions of the Principal Ordinance lotteries and sweepstakes organised and controlled by recognised racing clubs or associations, and also lotteries organised with the permission of the Inspector-General of Police for the purpose of raising funds for the building or repair of any Church, or in aid of any institution of a public, or philanthropic, or charitable, or religious character.

(e) *The Distressed Seamen Repatriation Ordinance, 1924 (No. 31)*. The object of this Ordinance is to enable the Colony to recover the expenses to which it may be put for the repatriation of its seamen, who are in distress, within the meaning of Section 40 of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, due to their being shipwrecked, discharged, or left in a foreign port. Security must be given by the owner, master, or consignee of a ship for every subject of British Guiana or the British West Indian Colonies shipped from this Colony to return such seaman either to this Colony, or to the Colony to which he belongs.

(f) *The Indian Hemp Ordinance, 1924 (No. 36)*. This Ordinance prohibits absolutely the importation, cultivation, manufacture, use, etc., of Indian Hemp and Datura.

(g) *The Indian Hemp and Datura Ordinance, 1924, Amendment Ordinance, 1924 (No. 45).* By the Principal Ordinance the importation, cultivation, manufacture, use, etc., of Indian Hemp and Datura is prohibited. It has been represented that certain medicinal preparations and patent or proprietary medicines contain the prohibited ingredients. This Ordinance is to allow the Medical Board from time to time to authorise the importation of any medicinal preparation or patent or proprietary medicine containing Indian Hemp.

IX. Education.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The expenditure on grants-in-aid to primary schools during the year was £64,470 6s. 0d. This sum was distributed among 223 schools with a total roll of 40,563, and an average attendance of 26,322.

The total number of teachers was 1,238, made up as follows :—

- 345 certificated teachers.
- 595 uncertificated teachers.
- 298 pupil teachers.

Payment of the grants-in-aid is based on the average attendance.

A sum of £2,602 10s. 3½d. was expended on the maintenance and tuition of 22 student teachers at the Training Colleges in Jamaica and Barbados. At the commencement of 1924, 10 students were selected and sent for a two years' course of training. One of these had to return on account of ill-health. Nine teachers were added to the number of certificated teachers, on the results of an examination held locally during the year. A further sum of £394 14s. 10d. was expended on the instruction of primary school teachers by means of lectures and demonstration lessons on school method, and lectures in agricultural science and hygiene.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Facilities for the secondary education of boys are provided at :—

- (1) Queen's College, a Government secondary school;
- (2) St. Stanislaus' College, a Roman Catholic grammar school;
- (3) Berbice High School, under the control of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission;
- (4) St. Joseph's Intermediate School, maintained by private enterprise;
- (5) Trinity High School, under the auspices of the Wesleyan Mission.

Younger boys are also received at St. Rose's School, maintained by the Ursuline Convent, and at the Bishop's High School; whilst, in connexion with several of the primary schools, classes for secondary instruction are also provided.

The needs of the girls are supplied by :—

- (1) The Bishop's High School for Girls;
- (2) St. Ursula's and St. Rose's Schools in connexion with the Ursuline Convent.
- (3) St. Joseph's High School in connexion with the Convent of Mercy, Charlestown.
- (4) St. Joseph's Intermediate School.
- (5) Berbice High School.

The work in these schools is tested principally by the results obtained in the various public examinations of the Cambridge University Local Examinations Syndicate.

Liberal assistance in obtaining secondary education is afforded by various scholarships. The Government annually awards seven scholarships for boys and five for girls under twelve years of age from primary and private schools. These are of the value of £20 16s. 8d. per annum, and are tenable ordinarily for four years, but may be extended to six or seven years. A Government Junior Scholarship of the same value as a Primary Scholarship is awarded annually to the boy or girl taking first place in the Cambridge Local Preliminary Examination. Queen's College Scholarships of the same value as a Primary Scholarship are offered annually to boys attending Queen's College who obtain a distinction in the Cambridge School Certificate examination in Classics, Mathematics, or Science. The Guiana Scholarship, awarded annually on the results of a special examination, conducted by the Cambridge University Syndicate, and of the total value of £900, payable in quarterly instalments extended over three, four or five years, affords a means whereby a student, whether boy or girl, may proceed to a university or higher technical college in the British Empire. The qualifying standard is that of an open entrance scholarship at any of the Colleges of Cambridge University.

In addition to the above, scholarships have been provided by private benefactions. The Mitchell Foundation gives three scholarships in two years for boys, and one annually for girls, of the value of £18 15s. 0d. per annum, and tenable for four years, on the results of the Cambridge Preliminary Local Examination. The Blair Bequest provides scholarships of the total value of £50 spread over four years to pupils under fourteen years of age from Government grant-in-aid primary schools. A Trust Fund, created under the Will of Pierre Louis de Saffon, a resident of the Colony who died over a century ago, undertakes the education and maintenance of a certain number of boys and girls, the number varying according to the revenue derived from the Fund.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

Industrial education in the Colony is provided for by the Government Industrial School Ordinance No. 8 of 1907 and the Industrial Training Ordinance No. 6 of 1910. A Board of Industrial Training appointed under the second-named Ordinance provides for the indenture of apprentices in the different trades, such as engineering, building, printing, shipping, clothing, etc.

Provision is made for the instruction and training of vagrant boys and youthful male offenders at the Government Industrial School at Onderneeming, Essequibo.

The School has accommodation for 200 boys. The number of inmates on the 31st December, 1924, was 176, whilst the daily average was 175.93.

The net cost per boy per diem was 11d.

Most of the boys are trained in agriculture. They cultivate and "cure," ready for the market, cocoa, coffee and Para rubber. Limes, coconuts, fruit trees, etc., are all attended to by the boys. The wood for kitchen and factory is cut and transported by the inmates. The boys make all their own clothes as well as the uniforms for their officers, a master tailor being their instructor. They also cook all the food for the Institution and bake bread, not only for themselves, but also for the Police Hospital at Suddie and for the general public. During 1924, 95,477 lb. of bread were baked.

A factory at the Institution has a small lime plant for making concentrated lime-juice and distilled oil of limes; a corn mill for making corn-flour; and a rice huller for treating padi, etc. There is a mechanic in charge of the boiler who teaches certain of the boys who show aptitude for work of this kind, and a carpenter instructor trains a few boys as carpenters.

Statistics show that a very large percentage of these boys "make good" after leaving the Institution.

X. Communications.

OCEAN COMMUNICATION.

Regular fortnightly and monthly communications are maintained with the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, and the West Indies by vessels of the Harrison Direct Line, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Trinidad Line, the Royal Netherlands West India Mail Company, and the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION.

The three rivers Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice are navigable for small steamers for 66, 58 and 130 miles respectively. Beyond these distances, owing to the nature of the country, they abound in cataracts and waterfalls. There are roads on the

coastlands and on the lower reaches of the rivers adjoining the plantations, but these do not extend inland, and communication beyond their limits is by water, steamers plying up to Christianburg, 65½ miles from Georgetown, on the Demerara River; to Bartica, 56 miles from Georgetown, on the Essequibo River; and to Paradise, 100 miles from New Amsterdam, on the Berbice River.

RAILWAYS.

There are three lines of single-track railway in the Colony, of which two were acquired by the Government from the Demerara Railway Company, and one is owned and operated by Messrs. Sproston Limited, a local company. One of the Government lines runs from Georgetown along the east coast of Demerara for a distance of 60½ miles to Rosignol on the left bank of the Berbice River which is diagonally opposite to New Amsterdam, the second largest town in the Colony. The other runs along the west coast of Demerara for a distance of 18½ miles, starting at Vreed-en-Hoop on the left bank of the Demerara River and ending at Parika, a point on the coast immediately opposite the Island of Leguan in the estuary of the Essequibo River.

Messrs. Sproston's line of railway runs from Wismar on the left bank of the Demerara River to Rockstone on the right bank of the Essequibo River, a distance of about 18½ miles, and forms an important link in the means available for reaching the important Potaro gold diggings. In connexion with this railway a tri-weekly service of steamers and steam launches is run on the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers.

STEAMERS.

The Colonial Transport Department (owned by Government) operates steamers on the following routes:—

Ferries across the Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo Rivers.

A steamer service from Georgetown to Morawhanna, with launch connexion to Mount Everard on the Barima River, North-West District.

Georgetown to Adventure on the Essequibo Coast.

Georgetown to Bartica at the junction of the Essequibo, Mazaruni and Cuyuni Rivers.

Georgetown to Pickersgill and other stations on the upper reaches of the Pomeroon River.

Parika to Aurora.

New Amsterdam, on the right bank of the Berbice River, to Paradise, 110 miles up that river.

Launch services are also run as follows:—

Bartica to Matope on the Cuyuni River.

Charity on the Pomeroon River, up and down the river and also to Acquero on the Moruka River.

New Amsterdam to Ilkuruwa, up the Canje Creek.

Messrs. Sproston's, a local company, operates a service from Georgetown to Wismar on the left bank of the Demerara River, thence by launch to Mallali in the upper reaches of the same river. The Company also runs sailing craft from Georgetown to New Amsterdam.

ROADS.

Roads have been opened and are maintained by the Government between Arakaka on the Barima River and Towakaima on the Barama River, a distance of 29 miles, with a branch line to Five Stars, a distance of 17 miles in the North-West District; between Tumatumari and St. Mary Konawaruk, 14½ miles, and Potaro Landing and North Fork Konawaruk, 20½ miles, with a connecting trail from the 6-mile post on the former road to the 10-mile post on the latter (known as the Tiger Creek line), a distance of 10½ miles, in the Potaro District, and a trail from the 1½-mile post on the Potaro North Fork Road to Kangaruma on the right bank of the River Potaro, a distance of 5½ miles; between Bartica on the Essequibo River and Kaburi on the Mazaruni River, a distance of 68 miles; and between Lower Camaria and Upper Camaria on the Cuyuni River, a distance of 3¼ miles, in the Essequibo District.

A road has been traced and is in construction from Morawhanna to Mabaruma Hills and the Aruka River in the North-West District, a distance of 21 miles; and extensions of the Bartica-Kaburi road have been traced from Kaburi to Potaro Landing on the Potaro River, a distance of 22 miles, and to Tiboku Falls, a distance of about 62 miles on the Mazaruni River, but construction work has not yet commenced.

CATTLE TRAIL FROM THE RUPUNUNI DISTRICT.

A cattle trail has been constructed and is being maintained by the Government between Takama on the Berbice River and Annai on the Rupununi River, a distance of 180 miles, with a branch line to Arakwa, a place approximately opposite Wismar on the Demerara River. During 1921 a trace was made of a further branch line starting at a point on the trail 12 miles east of Arakwa and connecting at Hyde Park with the bridle path and public road running along the east bank of the Demerara River.

POSTAL.

The Postal Service embraces the whole of the coastlands and extends up the principal rivers. The General Post Office is situated in Georgetown, and there are 51 branch post offices, 15 postal agencies, and 9 travelling post offices. The Post Office also controls the inland telegraph and telephone systems.

XI. Government Publications.

The following publications of the British Guiana Government are on sale at the offices of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and at the office of the Government Trade Commissioner for British Guiana in London, 9A, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1, at the prices indicated :—

Commercial Handbook of the Colony	... ..	1s. 6d. each.
Journal of the Board of Agriculture	... ..	1d. each.
"Rubber and Balata in British Guiana"	... ..	6d. each.
"Timbers of British Guiana"	... ..	5s. each.
Memorandum of terms on which Crown land can be bought.	...	2d. each.
Annual Reports of—		
Comptroller of Customs	... ..	} ½d. per page with maximum charge of 1s. each.
Local Government Board	... ..
Commissioner of Lands and Mines	... ..
Director of Science and Agriculture	... ..
Registrar-General	... ..
Official Receiver and Public Trustee	... ..
Colonial Transport Department	... ..
Directors of Widows and Orphans Fund	... ..
Postmaster-General	... ..
and any others likely to be of interest.	...	
Copies of British Guiana Ordinances likely to be of interest to persons outside the Colony.	...	2d. per page with maximum charge of 2s. per Ordinance.
Regulations passed under these Ordinances	...	2d. per page with maximum charge of 2s.
Volumes of revised edition of the Laws of British Guiana for 1921.	...	{ 6 guineas per set (calf). 5 " " " (stiff paper).
Blue Book	... ..
Combined Court papers and Court of Policy papers likely to be of interest to persons outside the Colony.	...	½d. per page with maximum charge of 1s.
Copies of Railway tariffs and time tables	... ..	Free of charge.

B. H. BAYLEY,

Second Assistant Colonial Secretary.

24th July, 1925.

COLONIAL OFFICE ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes for the Colonial Office the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1923-24, No. 1253 1s. 6d.	JAMAICA, 1923, No. 1218.. .. 1s. 3d.
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CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243 5s.	SIERRA LEONE, 1923, No. 1219 .. 1s. 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT for the period April 1st, 1914, to March 31st, 1923, No. 1230 2s. 6d.	SOMALILAND, 1923, No. 1226 6d.
CYPRUS, 1924, No. 1253 1s. 9d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1924, No. 1264.. .. 2s.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1923, No. 1242. 9d.	SWAZILAND, 1924, No. 1261 6d.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1924, No. 1256 1s. 6d.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1923-24, No. 1237.. .. 3d.
FIJI, 1924, No. 1259 1s. 3d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1924, No. 1266. 1s. 6d.
GAMBIA, 1924, No. 1249 6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1924, No. 1258.. .. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1924, No. 1266 6d.	UGANDA, 1923, No. 1220 6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1924, No. 1265 6s.
GOLD COAST, 1923-24, No. 1255 .. 2s. 3d.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1924, No. 1243 6d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1923-24, No. 1229 9d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1924, No. 1264 6d.
GRENADA, 1924, No. 1263 6d.	
HONG KONG, 1923, No. 1223 1s. 6d.	

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1924 (Colonial, No. 16) 2s. 9d.
IRAQ, April 1923-Dec. 1924 (Colonial, No. 13) 7s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1924 (Colonial, No. 12) .. 2s. 3d.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1924. <i>Appendices to the Report</i> (Colonial, No. 17) 1s.
TANGANYIKA, 1924 (Colonial, No. 11) 3s.
TOGOLAND, 1924 (Colonial, No. 14) 3s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) 2s.

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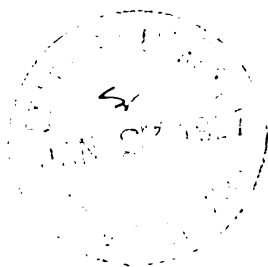
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1272.

SEYCHELLES

Report for 1924

*For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1191 and 1236 (Price 3d.
and 6d. respectively.)*



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1925.

Price 3d. Net.

No. 1272.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924.*

Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of south latitude 4° and 5° . The estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156½. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); St. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles:—The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, the Farquhar Islands and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1748, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846 [Cd. 7622-37].

of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV, from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's Ship "Orpheus."

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formerly taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897 the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was erected into a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but though the difference in temperature is only slight living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, was estimated at 25,847, an increase of 1,324 since the census of 1921.

There were 178 marriages, or 70 more than in 1923.

The births in 1924 numbered 723, which corresponds to a rate of 27.97 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 378, or 14.62 per 1,000.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.755,758, an increase as compared with 1923 of Rs.71,779. Customs revenue produced Rs.331,571, as compared with Rs.308,426 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.659,452.63.

The year was a good one as regards trade. Although imports decreased by Rs.7,279 when compared with 1923, exports on the other hand show the substantial increase of Rs.259,711.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last four years.

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Revenue. Rs.</i>	<i>Expenditure. Rs.</i>
1921	...	...	...	619,753	618,883
1922	...	...	...	644,006	536,482
1923	...	...	...	683,979	597,940
1924	...	...	...	755,758	659,452

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.427,454.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

On account of General Revenue	...	Rs.183,196
On account of Savings Bank	...	Rs.65,661

PUBLIC DEBT.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road-making was £5,393 1s. 9d. There is also a balance of Rs.40,000 still owing to Mauritius out of the sum of Rs.50,000 borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1925 Estimates for the repayment of Rs.5,000 of this balance.

SAVINGS BANK.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1924, was Rs.143,692, an increase of Rs.17,511 compared with 1923.

Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.3,675,390, as compared with Rs.3,422,958 in 1923.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,635,780, compared with Rs.1,643,059 in 1923. The imports from the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs.111,353; the imports from India also decreased by Rs.21,355. On the other hand the imports from France and from French possessions increased by Rs.26,936 and Rs.81,380 respectively.

EXPORTS.

The total exports were valued at Rs.2,039,610, compared with Rs.1,779,899 in 1923. The exports to the United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs.345,135.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	<i>Rs.</i>
United Kingdom	1,034,261
British Possessions	366,263
France and French Colonies	349,666

AGRICULTURE.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 3,184 tons as compared with 3,475 tons in 1923. Only about 178,000 coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with 209,000 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs.48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.350 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically, and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, and lemon grass oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 34,612 litres valued at Rs.324,887.

The export in 1923 amounted to 38,415 litres.

Vanilla.—As was anticipated the higher prices commanded by this commodity have stimulated its production. 1,429 kilos valued at Rs.57,744 were exported in 1924 as against 692 kilos valued at Rs.7,682 in 1923.

Rubber.—Owing to the slump in the rubber industry throughout the world, the production of rubber has been practically abandoned and many trees have been cut down for firewood.

FISHERIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Green turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

		<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Tortoise shell	... ..	1,505½	76,271
Calipee	... ..	9,167	21,812
Salt fish	... ..	10,050	1,990
Shark fins	... ..	295	225
Trepangs	... ..	2,558	1,656

The quantity of salt fish exported is still a great deal less than was exported before the War, when large quantities were shipped to Madagascar, Zanzibar, Mauritius, and Reunion.

The export of guano during the year amounted to 13,800 tons, the declared value being Rs.404,170.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 1. "An Ordinance to amend the Barristers and Attorneys Ordinance, 1923."

No. 2. "An Ordinance to amend the Paper Currency Ordinance, 1919."

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 21 Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Seventeen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,878 children with an average attendance of 1,293; the remaining 4 schools are Church of England, attended by 323 pupils with an average attendance of 237·8.

The average attendance has decreased from 71·6 per cent. to 68·8 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools and increased from 64·5 per cent. to 73·6 per cent. in the Church of England schools.

There are also four small unaided schools: two Roman Catholic, one at Port Glaud with 29 pupils and one at Anse Boudin, Praslin, with 45 pupils; two Church of England, one at Bel Ombre with 10 pupils and one at Anse Royale with a few pupils.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp school were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 225 and 171 pupils respectively; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations; 35 candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examination, of whom 10 obtained a Preliminary, 13 a Junior and 5 a School Certificate. Twenty candidates (girls) were also offered for the higher education of girls: there were no failures.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions and local scholarships. The total amount spent on Education was Rs.28,852, of which Rs.19,814 was a grant-in-aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 15 miles, however, are suitable for motor traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.36,817 and the expenditure to Rs.15,215. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 42 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being direct cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

J. L. DEVAUX,
Administrator.

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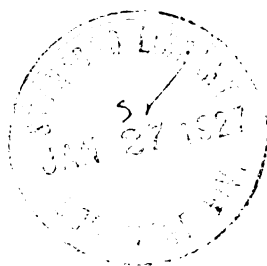
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No. 1273.

NEW HEBRIDES.

REPORT FOR 1924.

*For Report for 1921 and 1922, see No. 1161 (Price 6d.) and
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No. 1273.

NEW HEBRIDES.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

General.

The New Hebrides, to which are attached the Banks and Torres Islands, lie between the 12th and 20th degrees of south latitude, and the 165th and 170th degrees of east longitude, and have an area of about 5,700 square miles. The natives are Melanesians, but in places there is a mixture of Polynesian blood.

A joint Naval Commission was established in 1888 by agreement with France, to protect the lives and property of British and French subjects and to maintain order. By the Convention of the 20th October, 1906, a Condominium was set up with a joint Court composed of British and French Judges and a neutral President; and an executive government consisting, for some purposes, of the British and French representatives in the Group acting in concert. For other purposes British and French nationals remain subject to the control only of their national authorities. The Convention of the 20th October, 1906, has been superseded by a Convention of the 6th August, 1914, which was ratified in March, 1922.

The British and French Resident Commissioners are subordinate to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the High Commissioner at Nouméa respectively.

The year 1924 may be said to have been reasonably prosperous for the European settler in the Group. The yield of the different products inclined above the average, but no difficulty has been experienced in disposing of these products in the foreign markets and reasonable prices were obtained.

Revenue and Expenditure.*Condominium Revenue.*

		1923.			1924.
		£	s.	d.	Francs.
Post Office	.. ..	980	0	0	68,952·90
Port Dues	.. ..	729	0	0	23,092·48
Joint Court	.. ..	226	0	0	1,650·48
Import Duties	.. ..	22,240	0	0	608,492·86
Export Duties	.. ..	7,365	0	0	200,134·92
Radiotelegraph	.. ..	825	0	0	23,443·28
Miscellaneous	.. ..	401	0	0	18,958·16
Total Condominium					
Revenue	.. ..	£32,766	0	0	Fcs. 944,725·08

British Revenue.

	1923-24.			1924-25.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fines, Fees, Licences, etc...	73	0	0	76	0	0
Interest on Furniture ..	9	0	0	2	0	0
Rents	41	0	0	41	0	0
Income Duty	300	0	0	341	0	0
Miscellaneous	76	0	0	27	0	0
Total British Revenue ..	£499	0	0	£487	0	0

Condominium Expenditure.

	1923.			1924.
	£	s.	d.	Fcs.
Joint Court	7,617	0	0	146,679·08
Constabulary	—	—	—	3,979·24
Post Office & Treasury	1,247	0	0	39,890·00
Public Works (Annual)	4,586	0	0	132,824·88
Public Works (Extraordinary)	677	0	0	85,364·42
Port and Harbour	229	0	0	7,915·92
Island Services	274	0	0	16,976·78
Medical	246	0	0	6,084·04
Customs	894	0	0	22,832·32
Telegraph & Telephone	2,084	0	0	82,081·64
Lands	455	0	0	60,733·70
Miscellaneous	6,591	0	0	81,380·86
Total Condominium Expenditure ..	£24,900	0	0	Fcs. 686,742·88

Services entirely British.

	1923-24.			1924-25.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Establishments	3,660	0	0	4,115	0	0
Travelling	6,483	0	0	5,357	0	0
[1924-25 :—						
Govt. Yacht	£5,051	11	9			
Boat's Crew	305	17	7]			
Medical	250	0	0	313	0	0
Prison	275	0	0	—	—	—
Constabulary	917	0	0	1,753	0	0
Incidentals	669	0	0	2,063	0	0
Total Expenditure on Services exclusively British	£12,254	0	0	£13,601	0	0

Population.**NON-NATIVE POPULATION.**

The number of non-native population under British jurisdiction shows a small decrease in comparison with that shown in the statement which accompanied the report for 1923, the total on the 31st December, 1924, being 296. Those under the French flag for the same period numbered 2,352, of whom nearly two-thirds were indentured Indo-Chinese coolies, who automatically became French *ressortissants* by the operation of Article 2 (2) of the Protocol of 1914.

Six deaths and three births occurred among the British community during the year.

A statement is appended giving details of the non-native population for the period under report.

British.			
<i>Description.</i>		<i>Adult Males.</i>	<i>Females and Children. Totals.</i>
British Subjects	123	124	247
Foreign Subjects under British Regime :—			
European (a)	14	13	27
Asiatic	22	—	22
Totals	159	137	296

(a) Includes American.

French.			
<i>Description.</i>		<i>Adult Males.</i>	<i>Females and Children. Totals.</i>
French Citizens	290	451	741
French Protected	—	—	1,471 (b)
Foreign Subjects under French Regime :—			
European	—	—	9
Asiatic	—	—	131
Totals	290	451	2,352

(b) Indentured labourers (Indo-Chinese).

The total non-native population was thus 2,648, of whom 1,024 were of pure European descent and 1,624 were of Asiatic origin.

NATIVE POPULATION.

The question of the future of the native population remains and must continue to remain for a long time, one of very great interest. It would appear that there have been so many causes contributing to the decrease in the indigenous population that it

is almost impossible to attribute this to any one particular cause.

A decrease has occurred in the native population of other Island Groups of the South Pacific, but it should be noted that in many of them, after a certain point has been reached, the decline has ceased and an upward movement taken place. This would appear to show that after the first ill-effects of coming into contact with Europeans and an entirely different type of civilisation the native inhabitants have adapted themselves to the new manner of living and once more regained interest in life, with beneficial results to themselves. For this, credit must be given to the education, medical treatment, etc., which they have received; and there seems no reason why a similar condition should not be brought about in the New Hebrides.

In the islands, the population of which have been brought into more direct control and received some education and medical assistance, such a result can already be seen. Tanna is a conspicuous example of this, a census taken in 1919 showing a population of 5,310, and another in 1924 of 5,871, or an increase of 561 in five years. Paama and Tongoa, in the central part of the Group, are also satisfactory examples of an increasing population; with an extended system of native administration, resulting in closer supervision over the native population, and an adequate scheme of medical organisation, there are strong grounds to hope that the decline among the people of the New Hebrides may also be gradually checked.

Currency, Banking, Etc.

The year opened with French currency at an exchange rate of Fcs. 84·95 to the pound sterling and closed at Fcs. 87·17. The highest rate reached during the year was Fcs. 119·17 and the lowest Fcs. 67·80. The average for the year was Fcs. 85·83.

There are no banking facilities in the Group; the majority of the French firms conduct their banking business with the Bank of Indo-China in Nouméa, New Caledonia.

Imports.

The value of goods of all kinds imported during 1924 showed a considerable increase on the previous year, as the following figures will show:—

<i>Value in</i>			1923.	1924.
French currency	..	..	6,641,721	7,929,327
British currency	..	..	£85,300	£92,201

Of the total for the year 1924 the value of the British imports is estimated at about Fcs. 1,679,824 (£19,532), and that of the French at Fcs. 6,249,503 (£72,668). The sterling values are only approximate, the rate of exchange having varied so much during the year as to make a standard of calculation for the whole period almost an impossibility.

The continual decrease in the value of the British share of the trade may be attributed to the causes referred to in previous reports, supplemented by the fact that British firms are now importing more goods from France by the direct line of Messageries Maritimes steamers to enable them to compete with the local prices of the French firms. Except for such imports as flour, sugar, etc., which are still obtained in Australia, trade with that country has considerably fallen off.

The Messageries Maritimes supplied a three-monthly direct service to France during the period under report, and are providing a two-monthly service in 1925. In consequence thereof the bulk of the produce of the Group, with the exception of cocoa, is shipped to Europe direct, instead of via Australia as hitherto.

Exports.

The quantities of the different articles of produce exported during 1924 showed a considerable improvement over 1923, and the total value showed an advance of nearly 17 per cent. The increase in value may be partially attributed to better prices being obtained than in the preceding year, with the exception of cocoa, which remained about the same. The increase in the quantity of the exports may in a great measure be attributed to the increased labour facilities on the French side by the introduction of Indo-Chinese.

A comparative statement of the quantities and values of the exports for 1923 and the year under report is appended. Of these, in 1924, the British share of the value is estimated at £65,540, or about 25 per cent., and the French share at £195,550.

The bulk of the British exports was copra, which amounted to more than two-thirds of the total. The balance was made up of wool, valued at £10,332, and cocoa, valued at £2,791. Copra also formed the most valuable portion of the French exports, its value amounting to nearly 35 per cent. of the whole. Cotton and cocoa furnished nearly another 40 per cent., miscellaneous being made up of shell, hides, fruits, bêche-de-mer, etc.

EXPORTS.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Article.	1923.		1924.	
	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £
Copra	6,302	113,428	6,792	125,652
Cotton	1,287	32,185	1,420	46,068
Cocoa	1,062	42,484	1,517	60,716
Coffee	366	14,666	281	7,110
Maize	247	1,977	307	1,844
Sandlewood	50	1,492	84	1,038
Wool	30	6,000	33	10,805
Miscellaneous	—	5,709	347	7,857
Totals		£217,941		£261,090

Shipping.

The tonnage entered at and cleared from Vila in 1924 was 25 per cent. in excess of that in 1923 and nearly 90 per cent. more than in 1922. The following are the details :—

ENTERED TONNAGE.

		1924.	1923.
14 British	.. .. .	8,266	14,745
31 French	.. .. .	37,942	22,304
			229
			(American)
—		—	—
45		46,208	37,278
—		—	—

CLEARED TONNAGE.

		1924.	1923.
14 British	.. .. .	8,266	15,393
29 French	.. .. .	38,892	21,389
			229
			(American)
—		—	—
43		47,158	37,011
—		—	—

Owing to the establishment of the Messageries Maritimes line of steamers referred to elsewhere the preponderance of French tonnage becomes more marked, and is still likely to further increase.

H.M.A.S. "Brisbane" and H.M.A.S. "Marguerite" visited the Group in June and also the French sloop "Aldebaran."

Criminal Statistics.

In the islands of Santo and Malekula there have been several murders among the natives. These are the result of inter-tribal quarrels, which take the form of a continual vendetta. They are much to be regretted, but until district administration is more advanced it is not practicable to arrest the murderers. Endeavours are being made to get into communication gradually with the "Bush" tribes, so that Government control can be extended more by peaceful penetration than by visits of the armed constabulary.

There are no other cases of serious crime to report.

Hospitals.

The report under this head remains practically the same as for the preceding year. The Mission Hospital on Iririki continued to do good work, as did the French Government Hospital in Vila. The number of patients treated by the first named during the year was 735, of whom 47 were Europeans; the number treated by the French Government Hospital was 1,870,

of whom 206 were Europeans. The number of deaths in the British Hospital was 13, none being Europeans, and in the French Hospital 51, of whom 3 were Europeans.

The French Hospital in the Second Channel (Santo), which is in charge of the Condominium Medical Officer, also did good work; but statistics of cases treated are not available.

In the report for 1923 reference was made to the probable reopening of the Mission Hospital on Tanna. It is a matter for satisfaction that this has now been definitely decided upon and a medical officer is expected to arrive early in 1925.

Arrangements have now been concluded for the Group to be visited during 1925 by the Commission of Investigation into Ankylostomiasis (hook-worm), referred to in last year's report. It is hoped that as a result of this visit and the opening of the Tanna Hospital a better knowledge of conditions will be obtained and that it will be possible for a more forward policy in the treatment of the native population to be adopted.

Production and Natural Resources.

The area of land under cotton has still further increased since the report for 1923 was written. Coffee and maize remain almost the same; the output of coffee has not been as good as usual. Since the commencement of the year under report more cotton has been "ginned" than hitherto. A large ginning plant is being erected in Vila by one of the business houses, and this should have a favourable influence on cotton growing. But all agricultural operations are hampered by lack of labour. In the report for 1923 it was anticipated that more labour would become available for the British planter owing to the fact that the French were gradually ceasing to recruit local labour and importing indentured labour from Indo-China. This, however, has not proved to be the case. Since that report 600 more Indo-Chinese under indenture have been imported by the French, and the number of such imported labourers is likely to increase. At the close of the year the French had in their employ 1,800 New Hebrideans, 1,421 Indo-Chinese, and 50 Javanese. The number of New Hebrideans in British employ for the same period was 804.

The position of the British planter is, owing to the lack of labour, a matter of very considerable concern.

Wages and Cost of Living.

The cost of living for the year under report has not decreased to any appreciable extent. Native wages are high, and 5s. per diem is an average wage paid for casual native labour. The price of nearly all commodities varies with the fluctuations in the value of the franc.

The average price of a few commodities of daily consumption has been as follows:—

Butter, 2s. 6d. per lb.

Bacon, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per lb.

Cheese, 2s. 6d. per lb.

Eggs, 2s. per dozen.

Imported tinned vegetables, etc., 2s. per tin.

Flour, 16s. 8d. per 50 lb. sack.

Tea, 3s. per lb.

Monthly wages for domestic servants vary from 25s. to 30s. for a female and 35s. to 40s. for a male, and all found.

Meteorological Observations.

No hurricanes visited the Group during the period under report. A gale occurred in the month of December, but no damage was done. The rainfall for the year was less than usual and there was an exceptionally dry period during the months of September, October and November.

A statement is appended showing the monthly rainfall for 1924 at four stations in the Group.

RAINFALL RETURN BY MONTHS OF FOUR STATIONS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES FOR 1924.

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>March.</i>	<i>April.</i>	<i>May.</i>	<i>June.</i>
Port Vila (Efate) ...	1·14	3·02	7·17	3·36	15·00	15·53
Big Bay (Santo) ...	11·83	5·36	44·83	7·26	18·53	15·14
Hog Harbour (East Santo)	16·51	12·62	14·88	4·80	21·69	16·33
Atchin (Malekula) ...	1·73	8·59	9·98	4·31	12·24	7·67
Totals ...	31·21	29·59	76·86	19·63	67·46	54·67
	<i>July.</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
Port Vila (Efate) ...	6·86	5·37	0·34	1·03	13·05	5·67
Big Bay (Santo) ...	2·25	2·73	6·64	6·73	6·99	14·18
Hog Harbour (East Santo)	4·67	6·36	5·59	12·41	11·05	8·87
Atchin (Malekula) ...	3·58	2·50	0·57	3·72	7·36	3·65
Totals ...	17·36	16·96	13·41	23·89	38·45	32·31
Mean Annual Rainfall 35·155.						

Post and Telegraph.

Post.

The number of letters, books, packets, etc., handled by the Post Office in 1924 is estimated as follows:—

Received from the United Kingdom and

Colonies and France and Colonies 32,030

Received from other places 4,625

Total 36,655

Despatched to United Kingdom and Colonies

and France and Colonies 24,050

Despatched to other places 2,330

Total 26,380

Mail communication is maintained by vessels of the Burns Philp line, subsidised by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, and by the Messageries Maritimes line, subsidised by the French Government.

The inter-insular communication is maintained partially by four small steamers, the property of the business houses in the Group.

RADIOTELEGRAPH.

In 1924, 805 messages were despatched from the Vila Radio Station, and 1,036 received. Of those sent 228 were on Government account, and of those received 223. The cost of the station was Fcs. 71,086 (£826) and the receipts on account of traffic Fcs. 23,442 (£272), of which Fcs. 5,356 (£62) was payable to other stations as their share of coastal charges, etc.

The operating staff of the station numbered two, one British and one French.

G. B. SMITH-REWSE,

Resident Commissioner.

British Residency,

Vila, New Hebrides.

18th July, 1925.

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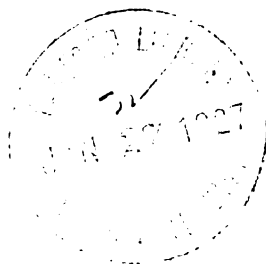
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No. 1274.

BARBADOS.

REPORT FOR 1924-25.

*(For Reports for 1922-23 and 1923-24 see Nos. 1175
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BARBADOS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924-25.

I.—Geographical and Historical Note.

1. Barbados is the most easterly of the West Indian Islands. It is situated in latitude $13^{\circ} 4'$ North, and longitude $59^{\circ} 37'$ West. It is about 21 miles long by 14 wide, and contains approximately 166 square miles, with a population of over 940 to the square mile. In size it is, therefore, comparable to the Isle of Wight, and in latitude to the Gambia or Madras; in climate to neither.

2. Barbados is said to have been first visited by the Portuguese, and to have been named by them "Los Barbados" on account of the bearded fig trees they found there.

3. In 1605 it was nominally taken possession of by the English ship "Olive Blossom" in the name of King James I.

4. James I granted Barbados to the Earl of Marlborough, and, in 1625, Sir William Courteen, a London merchant under Lord Marlborough's protection, commenced to colonize the Island. Some thirty settlers landed on the leeward coast, and founded Hometown.

5. Charles I, in 1627, granted all the Caribbee Islands to the Earl of Carlisle, who agreed to settle an annuity of £300 on Lord Marlborough to compromise his claim.

6. In 1628 Charles granted Barbados to the Earl of Pembroke under the impression that it was not one of the Caribbee Islands.

7. Lord Pembroke supported Courteen's right of pre-occupation against Lord Carlisle, and under this last grant the "Leeward" settlers at Hometown continued to hold possession until 1629, when they were finally overpowered by Lord Carlisle's "Windward" settlers, who had landed in Carlisle Bay and founded Bridgetown.

8. Lord Carlisle died, leaving the Caribbee Islands in trust for the payment of his debts, with remainder to his son. The latter transferred his interest to Lord Willoughby of Parham for 21 years. Lord Willoughby caused an Act to be passed acknowledging the King's dominion over Barbados and recognising his own position. He continued to govern the Island throughout the Civil War, but was compelled to relinquish the government when the Commonwealth was established, though many Royalist families found refuge in Barbados at that time.

9. With the Restoration Lord Willoughby agitated for the revival of his rights, and, in 1663, the Privy Council decided that he should receive half the annual profits derived from Barbados for the rest of his lease, with remainder to the Government, and that half should go towards the payment of the Marlborough claim and the heirs of Lord Carlisle.

10. After the discharge of all the liabilities the heirs of Lord Carlisle were to get £1,000 a year.

11. In order to raise this money a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty was imposed on all exports from the Island.

12. This was a constant source of grievance to the colonists, but it was not until 1834 that the Barbados Legislature passed an Act remitting the duty, which was finally abolished in 1838, when the position of the British West Indian planter was very difficult owing to the abolition of slavery in British dominions, and the fact that he still had to compete with the slave-grown produce of other West Indian Islands.

13. Barbados, unlike most of the other British West Indian Islands, has never passed out of British possession. The Government consists of a nominated Legislative Council of nine members, and a House of Assembly elected annually by the people on the basis of a moderate suffrage.

14. Next to the House of Commons and the House of Assembly in Bermuda the Barbados House of Assembly is the most ancient legislative body in the Empire.

15. The executive functions of the Government are performed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Governor, Colonial Secretary, and Attorney-General, and such other persons as may be nominated by His Majesty the King, with one member of the Legislative Council and four members of the House of Assembly nominated by the Governor. Members of the Assembly are elected annually.

16. Barbados is by its natural and climatic conditions the healthiest of all the West Indian Islands, and is much patronised by residents in neighbouring colonies as a health resort.

17. The anopheles mosquito (the carrier of malaria) is not found in the Island. This is a somewhat curious fact, since it is certain that they must be imported not infrequently in vessels which in many cases lie in the "Careenage" or inner harbour for considerable periods, on arrival from places where they are prevalent. The conditions, however, are evidently unfavourable to their breeding ashore.

18. The hot and rainy season lasts from the beginning of June to the beginning of November. The Island gets the full benefit of the north-east trade winds, and between November and May

the night temperature sometimes falls as low as 64° F. For the greater part of the year the temperature is delightfully equable, and the heat is seldom oppressive. Few places, indeed, enjoy a more pleasant climate. The winter months are regarded as the "Tourist Season."

19. Barbados lies almost out of the track of hurricanes, though it is a matter of history that hurricanes have swept over the Island at intervals, notably in 1780, 1831, and 1898, and have done great damage. Earth tremors have been occasionally felt, but severe shocks are unknown.

II.—General Observations.

1. The year 1924-25 was the third of the series which completed the recovery from the slump of 1921-22. The years 1922-23 and 1923-24 saw the liquidation of debts, and the year 1924-25 the re-establishment of a reserve fund and the accumulation of a surplus. The surplus was increased by an error in estimating the taxable incomes under the Income Tax Act, which brought in a larger return than was expected. The Income Tax collected in 1924-25 was, in respect of incomes received during the year 1923-24, the most prosperous of recent years.

2. During the year 1924-25 the sum of £100,000 was placed to a reserve fund to be drawn on only in cases of emergency or public calamity.

After deducting the amount placed to the reserve fund there was a balance left in the Treasury at the 31st March, 1925, of £136,652.

3. The Colony may now be said to be in a satisfactory condition as far as its finances are concerned, and in a position to undertake some of the pressing problems which have been held over while it was undergoing its recovery. Three of the principal problems are the reconstruction of the roads of the Colony, which, owing to the increased motor and other traffic, have been allowed to fall into poor condition, the removal of the wreck "Guarany," which blocks part of the best anchorage in the harbour, and the erection of the new pumping station at the Belle to meet the difficulty which has been experienced in recent years in keeping up the water supply, especially during the crop season. This last work has since been authorised, and the sum of £38,000, which has been voted for carrying it out, will be advanced from the general revenue, but charged later to Loan Funds.

4. The crop for 1924 was a smaller one than that for 1923, but it compared favourably with previous years, being the best crop (excepting 1923) since 1919. The average price for sugar was also good, being about £1 per ton less than the previous year's price. The year 1924 can therefore be said to have been on the whole a good year.

5. The average rainfall for the Colony for 1924 was 53·24 in., which was 7·92 in. below the average for the 60 years ended 31st December, 1923.

The following is taken from the report on the Department of Agriculture for the year 1924.

The average rainfall for the years 1847 to 1906 was 62·48 in.

“ “ “ “ “ 1847 „ 1924 „ 60·41 in.

“ “ “ “ “ 1907 „ 1924 „ 53·50 in.

During the past 18 years the highest rainfall was 70·78 in. in 1916 and the lowest 40·72 in. in 1921.

6. The revenue of the Colony exceeded that of the previous year by £60,000, but it must be explained that the Income Tax collected in 1924 (which was on incomes received during the year 1923) exceeded that collected in 1923 by £89,000. A comparison of the prosperity of the two years is shown by the taxable incomes for those years. The tax collected in 1924 (which was on 1923 incomes) amounted to £121,000, while it has been estimated that the taxable incomes received in 1924 (for the tax to be collected in 1925) would, at the same rate of taxation, bring in a revenue of £70,000.

7. The value of the imports for the year 1924 exceeded that for the year 1923 by £34,415, although the year 1923 was the more prosperous year, and though the value of local products exported during 1924 was less than that for 1923 by almost £300,000. This was probably due to the necessity of having to fill depleted stocks, due to a better spending capacity in the year 1923, and to orders carried forward from 1923. In a good year the amount spent on food for animals on plantations is considerably increased, and a comparison of the imports for the two years shows that the principal increase is on animal foods (bran, pollard, oilmeal, etc.), which exceeded the imports for 1923 by £105,000.

8. In view of the sound financial position of the Colony at the close of the year 1924-25, certain reductions in taxation and other public charges were recommended in connection with the Estimates for 1925-26, which were compiled accordingly. Since the Estimates were prepared, however, the price of sugar has fallen considerably, and the prospects for the immediate future are less rosy.

The principal reductions in taxation, etc., which were recommended, were as follows :—

- (1) That machinery, firewood, charcoal, and old and worn clothing imported by parcel post and not for sale should be exempted from duty.

- (2) That the stamp duties be reduced to the level at which they stood before their increase in 1921.
- (3) That postal charges should revert to pre-war rates.
- (4) That charges for water should be reduced by 15 per cent.
- (5) That the Income Tax rates should be revised so as to secure a revenue of £35,000.

9. The construction of an all-British cable for the West Indies with Barbados as headquarters was completed during the year. The new cable is under the control of the Pacific Cable Board. A new cable has been laid from Turks Island to Barbados, and new cables from Barbados to Trinidad and British Guiana. A wireless station has also been erected to connect the cable with the Windward and Leeward Islands. Barbados is now in a specially favoured position as regards its cable communications, as in addition to the new cable it has the cables of the Western Union line to Miami (Florida), of the Western Telegraph Company's line to Brazil, and also the cables of the old West India and Panama Telegraph Company, which continues in operation with all its old lines.

10. Nothing further has been done in developing the oil prospects of the Colony, but the British Union Oil Company is still obtaining oil in small quantities from certain of the wells already drilled, and the company has completed its arrangements for an oil bunkering station.

During the year the British Union Oil Company submitted proposals for establishing a refinery for oil to be brought from the company's concessions in Maracaibo, and it applied for certain concessions in the event of the scheme maturing. The proposals were submitted to the Legislature and the concessions asked for were granted, but up to the present no further action has been taken in the matter by the company so far as the Colony is concerned.

11. Nothing much was done in the way of public works construction during 1924, but the repairs to the wharf walls were continued, and preparations were completed for building the lighthouse at the north end of the island, which had been under consideration for some time. The work on the lighthouse is now being pushed forward, and it is hoped that it may be finished early in 1926. A new water boat was purchased for the supply of water to the shipping in place of one of the old boats which was condemned. The total cost was £13,763.

12. Among the principal matters of legislation during the year were the Registration of Deaths Act, which came into operation from the 1st January, 1925; and a new Pension Act to take the

place of the Pension Insurance Scheme which has proved so unsatisfactory. The Act provides for the compulsory retirement of officers on reaching the age of 65, and this will result in a very considerable change in the heads of the principal departments of the Service and in the clergy. An Act to place the Civil Service of the Colony on a graded system came into force from the 1st April, 1924. The need for the re-organisation of the local Department of Agriculture was under consideration, but up to the close of the financial year nothing had been settled as to the best method of dealing with the matter. A Bill to establish a Department of Science and Agriculture has, however, since been passed by the Legislature. The Bill combines the Department of Agriculture with the Department of Chemistry and Agricultural Science, at present separate departments, and it is proposed to extend the experiments hitherto carried on in connection with sugar cane seedlings.

13. The sum of £3,000 was voted during the year to enable the Colony to take part in the British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley in 1924, and Barbados had its section in the West Indies and Atlantic Pavilion.

The Colony was also represented at the Imperial Scout Jamboree held at Wembley in August by a group of Barbados Scouts, who had a most interesting experience and were kindly entertained wherever they went.

14. On 25th July, 1924, the Anglican Church celebrated the Centenary of the Consecration of Dr. Coleridge as its first Bishop, and its formation as a diocese apart from that of London.

The day was declared a public holiday by an Act of the Legislature, and was duly observed in all the churches of the diocese. There was also a central act of worship at the Cathedral. At this service messages of congratulation were read from His Majesty the King, His Excellency the Governor, who was absent on leave at the time, and from the other dioceses of the Province. In 1824 there were 12 churches, 15 clergymen, and 8 schools. Now there are 55 churches and chapels, 51 clergymen, 110 Church schools, 9 first and second grade schools, and 1 college of university status.

15. A greater interest in political matters is shown by the increase in the number of voters registered during the past three years, as follows :—

1922	...	...	...	...	...	2,445
1923	...	...	...	...	...	3,252
1924	...	...	...	...	...	3,385

III.—Financial.**(1) REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.**

1. The gross Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years have been as follows :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1920-21	454,286	508,391
1921-22	340,814	409,055
1922-23	519,213	402,524
1923-24	444,646	420,461
1924-25	504,696	364,530

These amounts includes receipts and payments on account of loans. Excluding special payments and receipts, the ordinary revenue for 1924-25 was £502,046, as compared with £427,489 in the previous year. The ordinary expenditure was £361,880, as against £348,296 in 1923-24.

2. At the 31st March, 1924, the balance in the Treasury was £96,486, and at the 31st March, 1925, this had been increased to £236,652. Of this balance £100,000 has been placed to a reserve fund, leaving a surplus of £136,652.

Revenue.

3. The excess in the total revenue over the previous year is mainly accounted for by the large receipts from Income Tax, the amount collected by this Tax being £121,314 in 1924, as compared with £31,869 for 1923. The revenue received from Customs and Excise was £17,464 less than the previous year, the other items being about the same.

The reduction in the Customs Revenue was due to the repeal of the Customs surcharge of 20 per cent., which had been imposed in 1922, and which was taken off from the 1st April, 1924.

4. The revenue received exceeded the estimate for the year by £97,290. The principal items of increase were :—

	£
Customs	21,547
Excise	5,953
Income Tax	56,314

5. The Income Tax is assessed on incomes received during the previous year, and as 1923 was the most prosperous of recent years the taxable incomes received that year yielded good returns, and through an error in underestimating certain incomes, which could not be fully ascertained until after the rates for 1924 had been fixed, the amount collected was £56,314 more than the amount estimated. The rates were the same as in 1923, and varied on a graduated scale between 2d. in the pound for incomes of £200 to 3s. 6d. for incomes exceeding £10,000.

6. In addition to the revenue raised by the Government the sum of £132,787 was raised by the various Parochial Boards for upkeep of their Institutions and for Poor Relief.

Expenditure.

7. The *ordinary* expenditure, excluding expenditure under loan funds, was £361,880, which was an increase of £13,584 over the *ordinary* expenditure for the previous year, but the *total* expenditure for the year was £55,931 *less* than that of the previous year.

8. The principal increases in the ordinary expenditure were under the heads: (1) Water Works, for pumping expenses, repairs to mains, etc.; (2) Subsidies and Grants; and (3) Public Works—a new laboratory for the bacteriologist—additions to the Lazaretto, etc. The only permanent increases were the small additions to personal emoluments under the new Clerical Service Act, which came into force from the 1st April, 1924.

9. The heads of expenditure showing the heaviest outlay are given below compared with the figures for the previous year:—

	1924-25.	1923-24.
	£	£
Police	38,915	36,537
Education	41,174	41,422
Medical Services	34,493	32,724
Water Works	48,493	43,040
Debt Charges	16,364	91,735

Education is aided but not entirely supported by the Government, though practically the whole of the teachers' salaries in aided schools is borne from public funds. Medical Services include the hospital, lunatic asylum and leper asylum and quarantine services.

The expenditure under Water Works includes interest and sinking fund payments on the loan raised for purchasing and extending the system. Water is supplied from standpipes distributed all over the island, which is thus obtained free by the bulk of the population.

(2) PUBLIC DEBT.

10. The public debt at the close of 1924 was £591,000, as compared with £592,400 in 1923, and the value of the sinking funds was £247,636, as compared with £228,838 in 1923.

(3) BANKS.

11. *Government Savings Bank*.—The total sum to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1924, was £683,604, and the value of the invested funds was £766,287. The number of

depositors was 11,894. The corresponding figures for 1923 were : deposits £592,403, value of invested funds £642,565, number of depositors 11,967.

12. *Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank.*—The Bank has completely recovered from the difficult position in which it was placed by the slump in sugar values in 1920–21. At the close of the accounting year 1921 the loans and interest outstanding amounted to £462,107, and of that amount at the close of the accounting year 1924 only £45,099 remained unpaid, and that amount is secured as a first lien against the land of the several plantations by which it is due.

13. The business done by the Bank during the year 1924–25 exceeded that of the two previous years, the loans made being £148,075, as compared with £115,065 in 1923–24 and £113,692 in 1922–23.

14. The Bank was established in 1906 with a grant of £80,000 made by the Imperial Government towards the assistance of the sugar industry of the Colony, which was in a very precarious condition at the time. This capital has been increased by the Bank to the sum of £165,960 at the 31st May, 1925.

IV.—Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

1. The total value of imports and exports for the last five years has been :—

				<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
				£	£
1920	...	...	...	5,145,537	4,865,894
1921	...	...	...	2,642,273	1,467,903
1922	...	...	...	2,480,320	1,259,794
1923	...	...	...	2,521,882	2,189,740
1924	...	...	...	2,556,297	1,858,301

The figures relating to trade are for the calendar year 1924.

The excess of imports over exports is a regular feature of the returns. Returns from the shipping trade, and remittances on account of investments held abroad, as well as remittances from Barbadians who have emigrated and assist their relatives remaining in the Island, help to make up a balance.

Imports.

2. The imports for 1924 exceeded those for the previous year by £34,415.

3. The principal increases were in the following items :—

	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Increase.</i> £
Animal foods (bran, pollard, oilmeal, etc.)	155,558	105,295
Cotton goods	209,501	10,263
Flour	159,068	8,533
Motor vehicles	34,726	10,757
Pork, salted	68,215	18,889

4. The principal decreases were :—

	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Decrease.</i> £
Butter	25,250	17,026
Haberdashery	22,702	12,271
Iron and steel manu- factures	37,845	12,233
Machinery	43,136	17,694
Oats	45,303	24,721
Wood (hemlock, beech)	54,936	36,372
Wood (shingles)	19,369	20,715

5. The total imports are classified as follows :—

	£
Food, drink, etc.	978,654
Raw materials	368,757
Manufactured articles	1,104,453
Miscellaneous	95,433
Specie	9,000
	<hr/>
	£2,556,297

Exports.

6. Of the exports £1,591,341 was represented by local produce and the balance by re-exports, including coal for shipping.

7. As compared with 1923 the value of the principal articles of local produce exported was as follows :—

	1923. £	1924. £	<i>Decrease.</i> £
Sugar	1,226,014	997,869	228,145
Molasses	594,557	524,927	69,630
Rum	1,010	1,370	—
Cotton	39,255	36,113	3,142

The decrease in the value of the exports was due to a smaller sugar crop and a slight decrease in the price of sugar.

Only a small portion of the rum manufactured is exported, the greater portion being consumed locally.

Cotton exports totalled 431,152 lb. as compared with 432,061 lb. in the previous year.

8. Other articles locally produced or manufactured which are exported are :—

	£
Biscuits	3,352
Fruits and nuts	7,089
Building lime	5,450
Manjak	2,315
Fresh vegetables	5,351

9. The average prices prevailing for sugar, sugar products, and cotton for the last six years have been :—

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sugar, per ton ..	28 10 0	63 15 0	22 10 0	16 5 0	25 10 0	24 10 0
Molasses, per gallon ..	0 1 10	0 3 1	0 1 5	0 1 1	0 1 3	0 1 7
Cotton, per lb. ..	0 4 0	0 1 5	0 1 10	0 1 10	0 1 10	0 2 1
Rum, per gallon ..	0 8 0	0 4 6	0 12 0	0 2 1	0 2 0	0 2 2

Transit.

10. The value of goods entered for transshipment was £193,655. The figures for the transit trade for the last three years are as follows :—

	£
1922	145,756
1923	230,048
1924	193,655

Bunkering Trade.

11. Ninety-seven steamers coaled during the year, taking 23,258 tons. The following figures show the falling off of this business since the termination of the war :—

	No. of steamers coaled.	Coal supplied. Tons.
1918	193	59,945
1919	343	90,658
1920	215	74,599
1921	97	34,308
1922	113	33,374
1923	111	29,628
1924	97	23,258

12. An oil bunkering station has been established by the British Union Oil Company but has not yet been put into operation.

Direction of Trade.

13. The following table shows the distribution of the import trade according to origin for the last five years :—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
United Kingdom	30.3	35.9	31.6	32.9	33.0
Canada	18.5	22.5	22.1	24.1	22.4
Other parts of British Empire	12.3	12.7	16.1	16.6	15.1
United States of America ...	35.7	22.2	24.1	19.6	21.4
Other foreign countries ...	3.2	6.7	6.1	6.8	8.1

Imports from the United Kingdom for 1924 were valued at £840,617; from Canada 571,110; from other parts of British Empire £384,826; United States of America £544,659; foreign countries £206,085.

14. The principal articles imported from Canada and the United States, with the respective values, were :—

	Canada.	U.S.A.
	£	£
Boots and shoes	4,162	1,492
Butter	4,235	6,274
Oilmeal (cattle food) ...	41,052	978
Coal	—	48,163
Cornmeal	579	29,236
Fish (salted)	36,544	3,170
Flour	117,626	41,134
Oats	41,149	11
Manures	33,016	—
Salt beef	784	37,812
Pork	29,993	38,214
Wood (various)	84,588	55,594

Destination of Exports.

15. This is shown below :—

To	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	1,055,346	105,687	149,058	427,677	205,921
Canada	1,266,134	653,332	655,649	1,280,543	1,182,971
Other parts of British Empire	300,165	137,183	106,886	121,593	83,297
United States of America ...	567,251	67,429	44,245	53,048	101,190
Other foreign countries ...	371,188	10,019	9,130	15,100	17,962
	£3,560,084	£973,650	£964,968	£1,897,961	£1,591,341

16. The sugar crop (including molasses) was distributed as follows :—

	<i>Sugar.</i>	<i>Molasses.</i>
	£	£
United Kingdom ...	157,825	2,182
Canada	796,633	459,486
Newfoundland...	—	29,508
United States of America	—	25,367
Holland	15,500	—
Elsewhere	27,911	8,384
	<hr/> £997,869	<hr/> £524,927

17. The value of the exports of sugar was £228,145 less than that for 1923, and of molasses £69,630 less. The exports to the British Empire were less than those for the previous year, while those to foreign countries were £61,152 more than the previous year.

AGRICULTURE.

Sugar and Molasses.

18. According to the Customs returns for the year 1924, 35,671 tons of vacuum pan crystals, 5,668 tons of muscovado sugar, and 5,987,453 wine gallons of molasses, equal at 110 gallons per puncheon to 54,431 puncheons of molasses of all grades, were exported, of the total value of £1,522,796, made up as follows :—

		£
White Crystal Sugar	1 ton valued at	30
Yellow	30·5	763
Dark	35,640·25	855,366
Muscovado	5,668·4	141,710
	<hr/> 41,340·15	<hr/> 997,869
Fancy Molasses ...	4,998,298 gals. valued at	468,590
Choice	818,365	54,558
Vacuum Pan	170,790	1,779
	<hr/> 5,987,453	<hr/> £1,552,796

19. The following table gives a comparison in terms of sugar alone (equating fancy molasses thereto) of the exports for the past five years :—

	<i>Tons.</i>
1920	48,212
1921	36,005
1922	51,074
1923	62,711
1924	54,493

The decrease of 8,218 tons in the crop for 1924 as compared with the previous year was to a large extent caused by the low rainfall in 1923.

It is estimated that approximately 35,000 acres are under sugar cane annually.

Cotton.

20. The following table gives the comparison of cotton crops by the crop, that is, from the 1st October of one year to the 30th September of the next year :—

Acres	...	...	<i>Crop of</i>	<i>Crop of</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
			1922-23.	1923-24.	
			2,767	2,687	80
					<i>Increase.</i>
Quantity (lint) lb.			397,711	409,767	12,056
Value	...	...	£36,107	£37,561	£1,454

The yield of cotton again showed signs of improvement, with a slightly smaller acreage planted the yield exceeded that of the previous year by 12,056 lb. of lint.

In 1924, 2,687 acres were planted in cotton.

SHIPPING.

21. The number of vessels entered was 1,259 with a net tonnage of 1,625,115, compared with 1,213 vessels and tonnage of 1,600,199 for the previous year. The increase was due to 25 more steam vessels and 21 sailing vessels having called at the port.

22. The number of seamen engaged at the port was 3,207, and 3,000 were discharged. The amount brought in as wages by seamen belonging to the Colony is estimated at £33,000.

23. For the purposes of their bunkering station the British Union Oil Company have laid a pipe-line in the harbour from their tanks at Needham's Point to a distance of 1,290 feet from the shore, and two mooring buoys with heavy moorings capable of holding the largest vessels have also been laid down. Up to the present, however, no ships have been supplied.

24. On the 2nd February, 1925, the Canadian Government S.S. "Canadian Navigator" was discharging her cargo, part of which was gasoline, in Carlisle Bay, when an explosion took place in one of her holds, which set the cargo on fire, and in a very short time, in spite of the assistance of the officers and men of certain ships of the North American and West Indies Squadron which happened to be in harbour at the time, the whole ship was in flames. The anchor cable was cut and the vessel was taken in tow by the Government water boat "Lord Combermere" with the intention of beaching her. After clearing the harbour, however, the towing-rope broke, and as it was impossible to reconnect it the vessel had to be abandoned and it drifted to sea. She was kept under observation by one of the ships of the Squadron until she disappeared.

V.—Education.

1. The schools of the Island, though largely assisted, and, in the case of the elementary schools, almost entirely supported by Government grants, are not Government schools. They are supervised, however, by a Board of Education consisting of nine persons nominated by the Governor, of whom seven must be members of the Legislature. The Inspector of Schools and his assistants are nominated by the Board. Each elementary school is under the direction of a local committee consisting of the clergyman of the district and two others nominated by the Central Board. Contributions towards the maintenance of elementary school buildings are made from parochial funds.

2. There are three grades of schools recognised by the Board. viz., elementary schools, of which there were 134 in 1924, second grade schools, six in number, and three first grade schools, viz., Harrison College and the Lodge School for boys, and Queen's College for girls. Harrison and Queen's Colleges are situated in Bridgetown, and the Lodge School, a boarding school, in the Parish of St. John, about twelve miles from town. The elementary schools, in their turn, are annually classified as first, second or third-class schools, according to the efficiency of each school in work, tone, etc. There are also three "ragged schools" for very poor children.

3. The number of children on the school registers was 21,539, and the average attendance 13,565, figures which show a small increase on the previous year. It is sometimes said that a large number of the children of the Colony have no opportunity of education, but there is very little ground for this opinion. The number of children between 5 and 12 years of age, according to census results in 1921, was about 26,000, and the number returned as attending educational institutions was 25,533. Allowing for a certain proportion over 12, and perhaps a very few under 5, the number receiving no education cannot be large.

4. In respect to secondary education the Colony is well provided. There is, however, need for a second grade school for girls in St. Michael, and the Vestry of the Parish has purchased a site for a school in Bridgetown, and work on the erection of the school buildings has been commenced. Contributions towards the maintenance expenses of this school have been promised by the Government similar to those given to other second grade schools.

5. The expenditure on education was £41,739. Of this amount £1,130 is the cost of the Education Board and head office, £8,660 the grants to second grade schools, and £29,000 to the elementary schools, the remainder being required for incidental and miscellaneous expenses. Of the £29,000 for elementary schools £26,773 was applied to teachers' salaries. The fees collected in the elementary schools amounted to £1,715.

6. A system of trade apprenticeship bursaries has been started for the instruction of selected pupils as apprentices to master workmen. The course of training lasts from three to five years according to the trade represented.

7. The average attendance at the six second grade schools during the year was 389. The attendance at the three first grade schools was 398. Both the first and second grade schools enter candidates for the Senior Cambridge Local Examination and School Certificate Examinations.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

8. The Government maintains an industrial school in a country parish for juvenile offenders and vagrant youths and girls. During 1924 there was an average of 175 boys. The boys are trained principally in agricultural work and also in trades such as carpentry, tailoring, etc. There is also in connection with the school, at some distance away, an institution for girls with 35 inmates.

9. The girls are trained in domestic work, sewing, and such agricultural work as is customarily done by women in this Colony.

10. The school work at these institutions is reported to compare not unfavourably with the average standard in the elementary schools.

VI.—Social and Vital Statistics and Public Health.

1. The last census was taken in 1921, and showed a decrease of population since 1911 of 15,671. Some of the more important figures of this census, compared with that of 1911, are given below :—

	1911.	1921.
Total population	171,983	156,312
Number of whites	12,063	10,429
Number of blacks	118,387	111,677
Number of mixed	41,533	34,216
Number per square mile, St. Michael ...	3,825	3,623
" " " whole Island ...	1,034	940
Percentage of females	59·2	59·7
Number of agricultural labourers ...	36,233	32,728
Attending educational institutions ...	34,244	25,533
Afflicted persons	1,200	1,124

2. The population on the 31st December, 1924, was estimated to be 159,499, but as this estimate depends on emigration and immigration figures, which experience has shown to be often

seriously inaccurate, not much reliance can be placed upon it. These figures show 11,609 departures from the Colony during the year and 12,427 arrivals.

3. The change in the immigration laws of the United States has put a stop to the rush of emigration to America. In 1923 over 1,700 persons emigrated to the States and the number was gradually increasing, as those who had settled there sent money to their relations and friends to enable them to join them. Under the new law the annual quota of emigrants allowed to the Colony by the American Government is about 60.

4. The birth-rate during the year was 32·91 per 1,000, and the death-rate 29·54. The percentage of illegitimate births was 68·24.

5. The following table gives results for the last five years :—

				<i>Illegitimate.</i>	
				<i>Birth-rate.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
				<i>Death-rate.</i>	
				per 1,000.	
1920	...	37·07	67·66	32·90	per 1,000.
1921	...	32·62	68·81	43·42	„ „
1922	...	34·33	66·97	22·41	„ „
1923	...	37·44	70·1	37·11	„ „
1924	...	32·91	68·24	29·54	„ „

6. Up to the 31st December, 1924, no registration of the causes of death was available, but from the 1st January, 1925, a Registration of Deaths Act came into force, and in the future it will be possible to give information as to the principal causes of death.

7. The number of infant deaths per 1,000 births during the last five years has been :—

				<i>Infant deaths.</i>		
				per 1,000 births.		
1920	...	...	...	220	per 1,000 births.	
1921	...	...	...	401	„ „ „	
1922	...	...	...	187	„ „ „	
1923	...	...	...	371	„ „ „	
1924	...	...	...	298	„ „ „	

PUBLIC HEALTH.

8. Barbados enjoys natural and climatic advantages from a health standpoint such as can scarcely be found in any other tropical place. Malaria is unknown, there are no extremes of heat or cold, the soil is well drained and the water supply very good; it is, moreover, constantly swept by the trade winds. In these circumstances it is an unusually healthy place of residence for all who are able to secure for themselves freedom from insanitary surroundings. Enteric fever and dysentery are, however, unfortunately common.

9. The number of cases of enteric notified during the last five years has been :—

1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,012
1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,070
1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,084
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	735
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	762

The ordinary type of enteric fever cases is of a mild character.

10. Proposals for a comprehensive review of the system of public health organisation have been placed before the Legislature by the Government at the suggestion of the Secretary of State. The question is one which is full of more than usual difficulty, owing to the density of population and existence of vested rights, but the high and fluctuating death-rate, combined with undue prevalence of enteric fever, indicates unmistakably that improved sanitary methods are an urgent need.

11. Apart from the conditions above referred to, the Island is exceptionally healthy and remarkably free from epidemic disease.

12. A Venereal Disease Clinic, established at the General Hospital in 1922, has been attended by steadily increasing numbers. Subsidiary clinics in other parts of the Island are much needed.

13. The treatment of inmates of the Leper Asylum with Ethyl Esters of Chaulmoogra oil has been continued with very hopeful results in a number of less advanced cases.

14. Four cases were discharged as cured during the year, and there are at the present time several cases waiting the holding of Medical Boards to decide whether they can be discharged. All cases that are discharged are required to show themselves to the Medical Officer of the Asylum every three months with a view to his ascertaining whether there has been any return of the trouble.

15. In June, 1924, a riot occurred in the Leper Asylum, when some of the inmates assaulted and beat the Superintendent, who had been recently appointed to improve the discipline of the Institution. The police had to intervene and the ringleaders were convicted and removed to the Government Gaol where they were specially segregated. The majority of the inmates sympathised with the Superintendent, and on his return to duty, with changes in his staff, he has had no trouble in enforcing discipline, and the Institution is now in a quiet and satisfactory condition.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

16. The following statement gives comparative figures for the last two years :—

	1923.	1924.
Total number of persons committed to prison	1,359	1,278
Sentenced to terms of one year or more	37	42
Daily average in prison (males) ...	188	197
Daily average in prison (females) ...	49	46
Police Court convictions	10,873	10,605
Police Court convictions for Prædial Larceny	729	732
Convictions by Superior Court ...	69	76
Convictions by Superior Court for Prædial Larceny	2	—

Conclusions should not be hastily drawn from variations in these statistics, which are affected by many factors. There has, however, been a continuous decline in convictions during the last four years. The boom of prosperity during 1920 was accompanied by high criminal records. During that year the average daily number in prison was 334 men and 82 women.

17. The cost of living showed no appreciable change as compared with 1923, as far as can be judged in the absence of accurately compiled statistical information. Food prices remained the same. As compared with pre-war conditions, it is generally assumed that the cost of living in Barbados has advanced by not less than 50 per cent.

VII.—Communications.

By SEA.

1. The only subsidised line is the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which gives a fortnightly service between Halifax and St. John (N.B.), Bermuda and the West Indies. The upward and downward ships meet at Barbados. The subsidy is paid by the Canadian Government. An arrangement entered into in the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1920, for an improved service with a subsidy towards which the West Indies were to contribute, has not yet been put into effect, as it has not been found possible to provide a service of the type laid down at the subsidy prescribed. The seasonal character of the passenger traffic and northward cargoes is always a difficulty in dealing with West Indian steamship services. The central position of Barbados, however, secures for it frequent services in spite of the absence of subsidies.

2. From England the Harrison Line, Leyland Line, and Royal Dutch West India Line (fortnightly) are regular services. During the winter months vessels of the Elder and Fyffe Company also give a passenger and mail service, outward and homeward voyages also, during a limited period in spring and summer.

3. In addition to Royal Mail Steam Packet Canadian Service the Canadian Government Merchant Marine were also regular callers. They are only cargo boats.

4. To New York, the Quebec Steamship Company give a regular passenger service via the northern West Indian Islands, and the fine steamers of the Lamport and Holt Line call fortnightly on the voyage from Buenos Ayres via Brazilian ports to New York.

From New York via the northern West Indian Islands the Clyde Line of steamers call here once a month; they are cargo boats and carry only a limited number of passengers.

5. In addition to these regular callers other lines call periodically. In fact, except to Jamaica, communications from Barbados are good and frequent. During 1924, 400 steamers and 36 sailing ships brought mails, and 375 steamers and 67 sailing vessels took mails.

TELEGRAPH.

6. The Colony is now well served as regards telegraphic communication. During the year the cables of the Pacific Cable Board, West Indian System, commenced operations with a direct cable via Turks Island, cables to Trinidad and British Guiana, and wireless communication with the Windward and Leeward Islands.

7. The West India and Panama Company's contract terminated during the year, but the Company is continuing its service with all its old connections.

8. In addition the Colony has the services of the Western Union Cable Company via Miami, Florida, and the Western Cable Company via Brazil.

9. The Government wireless station has been closed, and the works have been sold to the Pacific Cable Board, who proposes to use them in case of any temporary trouble with their new station.

INTERNAL.

10. A small railway runs through the southern parishes and along the east coast. It was run as a private concern until 1916. When it was about to be shut down the Government took it over.

In June, 1924, an accident occurred to a bank holiday train, when one of the first-class carriages jumped the line and turned over. One passenger was killed and a few others were injured. This was the first serious accident for several years.

11. A motor-bus service now runs daily to all parts of the Colony, and it has to a certain extent affected the receipts of the railway.

12. A mule tramway service has served the Colony for many years, but it has recently met with serious competition from the motor-bus service, which has absorbed most of its passengers.

13. The roads of the Colony have suffered heavily in recent years through the great increase in motor traffic, and also in some parts of the Island from increased traffic due to the sugar factories, and it is now found impossible to maintain the roads on the funds which were sufficient in the past.

14. A Commission was appointed in 1924 to consider the best means of dealing with the road deterioration, and it has been recommended that the main arterial roads be reconstructed with a bituminous surface in place of the present water-bound macadam surface which is considered unsuitable for withstanding the wear and tear of motor traffic, and that the work of reconstruction be carried out by a Central Board in place of the several Parochial Boards which at present each control a portion of the roads. It is estimated that the cost of reconstructing the main roads, as recommended, would amount to £182,000, and that it would take from three to five years to complete the work. The recommendations are under consideration by the Legislature.

J. B. HOWELL,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Barbados.

25th September, 1925.

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No. 1275.**SIERRA LEONE.**

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924.*

PREFACE.

Geographical and Historical.**(a) GEOGRAPHICAL.**

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,250 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of north latitude and $10^{\circ} 40'$ and $13^{\circ} 21'$ of west longitude. It extends for a maximum distance of rather over 200 miles from north to south, and of about 180 miles from west to east.

The Colony proper as at present constituted comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, Turner's Peninsula and a number of small islands, of which the most important is York Island, adjacent to Sherbro, as it is a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year, but at other times are frequently shrouded in mist or clouds.

These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil. Possibly these two characteristics account for the comparative readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 260 square miles, and its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163 (1921 Census).

* A Map will be found in the Report for 1921, No. 1150.

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords anchorage for the largest ships close in shore, and on this account, during the Great War, Freetown Harbour was of considerable importance from an Imperial point of view.

The town itself is, on the whole, well laid out with straight and often broad streets; this is due to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who planned the nucleus of a well-designed town. During the past ten years a number of good public and private buildings have been erected, and during the past five years the streets have been taken in hand and improved to such an extent that at the present time 308 motor vehicles ply in and around Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there are large reservations of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown is 44,142 (1921 Census).

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The capital is Bonthe, a port of call for sea-going steamers and next in size and importance to Freetown.

The configuration of the Protectorate varies considerably in different localities. The Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries; owing, however, to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, forming part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length. Attempts are, however, being made both in the Northern and in the Southern Provinces to render certain of the rivers navigable for trade purposes for a greater proportion of their length. The Bum or Bum-Kittam River, which flows parallel with Turner's Peninsula, is really the estuary of several rivers forming a delta, since it has two exits into the sea. The current, however, sets towards Sherbro Island, even in the dry season, and the Bum-Kittam constitutes a valuable waterway between Bonthe and certain parts on the Sewa and Wanje Rivers.

The nature of the country also varies considerably. A line drawn east from Freetown indicates approximately the latitude at which the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of

the south merges with the more thinly wooded country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate was surveyed by a geologist in the years 1918-21, who was unable to detect the presence of any mineral of commercial value in deposits of sufficient magnitude to be worth exploiting. Further investigations are, however, to be made in 1926.

The Protectorate supports an average of 57·48 persons to the square mile, but the population, generally speaking, is somewhat denser in the Central and Southern Provinces than it is in the Northern.

The population of the Protectorate, according to the 1921 Census, is 1,456,148, and is composed of the following tribes:—

Northern Province... Susus, Yalunkas, Korankos,
Limbas, Lokkos, and Temnes,
with some Mandingoes, Fulahs,
and Kissis.

Central Province ... Konnos, Kissis and Mendes, with
some Bandis and Golas.

Southern Province... Mendes, Krims, Veis, Golas,
Sherbros and some Temnes.

The Mendes and Temnes are the most numerous of the Protectorate tribes.

(b) HISTORICAL.

Sierra Leone has been known to historians for many centuries, but its actual settlement as a British Colony was due to the awakening of the conscience of England in the matter of her attitude towards the extensive slave trade carried on up and down the West African coast during the eighteenth century.

Led by William Wilberforce, England determined upon the abolition of this trade, and, in order to make suitable provision primarily for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers, acquired a strip of land on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site, in May, 1787, the first colonists were landed and began the work—thereafter to be frequently threatened with total failure—of building up the Colony of Sierra Leone. The original grant made by the local chief, King Tom, was subsequently ratified by the Paramount Chief Nembanna and the country was ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from the native chiefs and in 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party

of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate; later on the number of settlers was still further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, besides being attacked three times from the land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 "King" Farina and "King" Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies, and in the following year the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company were transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed.

It was not many years before the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland, and treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands—for example, Bunce Island, Port Lokko, and Kaffu Bullom—were ceded to the Crown; some of these treaties, however, were not ratified by the Crown. Thereafter the Government of the Colony began to make its weight increasingly felt in the Protectorate by the settlement of tribal wars. In 1852 the first mail steamer from England arrived in the Colony.

From 1866 to 1874 Sierra Leone was officially the senior West African Colony and the headquarters of the "West African Settlements." The Governor-in-Chief resided at Freetown and administered not only the Colony of Sierra Leone but those of the Gold Coast, Lagos and the Gambia in addition.

In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreements between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate, divided into administrative districts, and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate; this broke out in the Karene District when a Temne chief (Bai Bureh) refused to pay the House Tax, which was then being imposed for the first time. In April of that year the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved. Early in the following year, however, the military operations which had become necessary were brought to a successful conclusion, and since that date the Protectorate has, on the whole, remained extremely peaceful.

I. General.

The year 1924 was marked by sustained progress in all directions. The increased stability of trade and consequent improvement in the Colony's financial position not only enabled the Treasurer to show a greatly increased balance of surplus assets but also justified a reduction (late in the year) of the *ad valorem* import duty from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. The export of palm kernals, which in 1923 had beaten all previous records, showed a further increase in 1924, and the export of other products was well maintained.

Agricultural propaganda was intensified in all parts of the Colony and Protectorate, the efforts of the Lands and Forests Department being conspicuously directed towards the better cultivation of ginger and the introduction of American cotton.

The participation of Sierra Leone in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, though it entailed a vast amount of organization, work and expense, was a feature in the year's events of the greatest value to the Colony, which may be confidently expected to reap the benefits in increased trade in the future.

Politically, the most important event of the year was the abolition of the now defunct Legislative Council (the constitution of which provided for the appointment of five official and four nominated unofficial members, under the presidency of the Governor) and the substitution therefor of an enlarged Legislative Council consisting of :—

- (1) The Governor as President ;
- (2) Official members : viz., the five senior members of the Executive Council, that is to say, the Senior Military Officer for the time being in command of His Majesty's regular troops within the Colony, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, the Colonial Treasurer and the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services; and the Commissioners of the Northern, Central and Southern Provinces, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works and the Commissioner of Lands and Forests ;
- (3) Nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests ;
- (4) Three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electoral District.

Elections in the Urban and Rural constituencies of the Colony were held on the 28th October, and the new Council was formally opened by the Governor on the 25th November.

The tranquillity and harmony which have for many years characterized the relations existing between the Government and the Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate were well maintained.

The Governor was absent from the Colony on leave between 25th June and 11th October; during this period the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. C. Luke.

II. Financial.

(a) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £868,319, as compared with £845,319 in 1923, and exceeded the original Estimate by £61,521.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1923 and 1924.

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Customs	317,463	512,339	480,733
Light Dues	6,938	9,641	10,747
Licences and Internal Revenue	79,745	14,100	14,827
*House Tax Receipts	—	59,730	59,973
Fees of Court.. .. .	17,853	22,041	24,457
Post Office	14,487	12,912	11,953
Rents	417	676	577
Interest	12,324	6,558	10,378
Miscellaneous.. .. .	1,821	18,025	34,815
Railway	167,305	189,297	219,046
Land Sales	30	—	813
Total	£618,383	£845,319	£868,319

At the end of 1923 there was a certain degree of overstocking, but the decrease in Customs revenue in 1924 was largely accounted for by the reduction of import duty on provisions from 25 per cent. to 12½ per cent. in December, 1923, and the abolition of the export duty on palm oil and gum copal in December, 1923.

The increase under " Miscellaneous Receipts " is due to the payment to the Colony of a sum of £21,260 from the West African Currency Board (*vide* " Currency " *infra*).

The increase under " Railway " is an index of enhanced trade prosperity.

(b) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £777,790, compared with £727,661 in 1923, and was less than the original Estimate by £8,240.

* Previously shown under " Licences and Internal Revenue."

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1913, 1923 and 1924 :—

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt	61,574	83,413	83,076
Pensions	8,228	38,946	38,232
Governor and Legislature ..	6,443	7,221	6,804
Colonial Secretary's Department	8,190	17,174	17,407
Provincial Administration ..	33,877	55,245	56,003
Treasury	4,813	9,005	8,636
Customs Department	14,683	19,151	20,977
Audit	3,051	4,001	4,300
Port and Marine Department ..	3,289	3,179	3,525
Legal Departments	11,670	12,921	15,320
Civil Police	10,082	22,167	22,796
Prisons	8,633	14,628	15,184
Medical Department	30,048	41,696	42,671
Sanitary	8,951	19,315	17,978
Education	13,296	22,447	28,439
Post Office	12,124	17,546	17,570
West African Frontier Force ..	40,638	36,377	35,217
Railway Department	146,060	154,705	156,544
Agricultural „	2,842	—	—
Forestry „	3,584	—	—
* Lands and Forests	—	15,953	22,590
Miscellaneous Services	23,914	25,679	28,349
Protectorate Roads Department (now under P.W.D.)	7,558	—	—
Public Works Department (now includes Protectorate Roads)	13,622	23,095	25,033
Public Works Recurrent (now includes Protectorate Roads)	18,897	37,976	42,328
Public Works Extraordinary ..	58,856	15,918	25,398
Extraordinary Works, Railway	—	29,903	43,411
Survey of Colony and Protectorate	228	—	—
Railway Construction	48,999	—	—
Freetown Water Works.. ..	6,657	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary (Special)	11,632	—	—
Total	£622,439	£727,661	£777,790

(c) LOAN EXPENDITURE.

The net proceeds of the loan of £1,000,000 (raised before the War) amounted to £942,826. Of this £494,565 was spent on the redemption of Bonds of the 1904 loan, £325,652 on Railway extension, £106,976 on Freetown Harbour Works and £12,023 on Roads Construction.

* Previously shown under "Agricultural" and "Forestry."

(d) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £317,983.

The principal items are :—	£	£
Railway Stores	40,386	
Public Works Stores	12,072	
	<hr/>	52,458
Surplus Funds (invested) ...		70,377
Cash Balance—Treasurer's		
Account	24,249	
Railway Open Line Account ...	5,002	
	<hr/>	29,251
Cash held by Crown Agents ...		155,000

On 31st December, 1924, the market value of the securities held in respect of Surplus Funds invested was £54,619.

(e) PUBLIC DEBT.

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1924, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £288,134 9s. 6d.

(f) CURRENCY.

The Imperial and West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the following values: £5, £1 and 10s.

The stock of West African alloy coin at the beginning of the year was £139,025. This coin was issued to the two banks as required.

No money was received during the year from the West African Currency Board, but £118,986 4s. 9d. was received from the banks and taken into stock. £104,600 4s. 9d. was issued to the banks and £100,000 and £30,000 were shipped to the Currency Officers at Accra and Lagos respectively, leaving a balance in hand of £23,411 at the close of the year.

The face value of the West African currency notes held at the beginning of the year was £230,941. During the year sums representing £157,465 were returned to Currency Board's stock by the banks, and notes to the value of £261,006 were destroyed. The issues to the banks amounted to £4,936, and the balance on hand at the close of the year represented a face value of £122,464.

As Freetown is the last port of call for vessels on the homeward voyage, considerable quantities of West African currency notes issued in the other Colonies are landed here, thus accounting for the redemption of large sums in excess of the face value of amounts issued, as also for the fact that the value of notes actually in circulation at the end of the year is calculated at a minus sum of £617,194. A sum of £21,260 was received from the Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income on investments during the year.

(g) BANKING.

There are two banks—the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both banks.

Each bank has a savings bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

III. Trade, Industries and Shipping.

(a) IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1924 was £1,730,643, as compared with £1,949,981 in 1923.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1913, 1923 and 1924 :—

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Commercial Imports	1,291,982	1,421,928	1,451,596
Government Imports	146,053	238,216	184,351
Specie	312,268	289,837	94,696
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,949,981	£1,730,643

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	354,488	356,905	413,532
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	103,680	166,526	156,924
Articles mainly manufactured	979,449	1,136,110	1,062,970
Miscellaneous	418	603	2,521
Specie	312,268	289,837	94,696
Totals	£1,750,303	£1,949,981	£1,730,643

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

	£
1913	173,565
1923	46,378
1924	36,786

The value of spirits imported, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below:—

						Per cent.
1913	...	...	...	...	...	5·18
1914	...	...	...	...	...	3·26
1915	...	...	...	...	...	4·47
1916	...	...	...	...	...	4·09
1917	...	...	...	...	...	3·57
1918	...	...	...	...	...	4·27
1919	...	...	...	...	...	2·83
1920	...	...	...	...	...	2·05
1921	...	...	...	...	...	2·18
1922	...	...	...	...	...	2·88
1923	...	...	...	...	...	1·54
1924	...	...	...	...	...	1·10

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 26,572 tons, valued at £68,601, as against 35,898 tons, valued at £101,319, in 1923.

Imports of coal for the use of the Government amounted to 6,857 tons, at a cost of £15,326.

Cotton Piece-Goods.

Year.	Quantity Yards.	Value C.I.F.	Duty Obtained.	Rate of Duty.
		£	£	Per cent.
1912	14,538,851	231,676	22,014	10
1913	16,074,461	267,089	24,837	10
1914	11,452,302	184,875	17,040	10
1915	10,742,009	157,229	16,230	10-12
1916	10,643,646	206,472	28,569	15
1917	12,021,562	314,108	41,637	15
1918	10,595,099	418,305	55,077	15
1919	5,712,489	289,897	39,676	15
1920	7,966,545	579,264	80,529	15
1921	4,526,771	219,566	44,349	15-20-25
1922	9,222,969	356,408	81,470	25
1923	10,509,061	393,291	92,396	25
1924	7,239,137*	308,372	70,050	25†

* Up to and including 1923 quantity is shown in linear yards; the 1924 figures represent square yards.

† Until 27th November when it was reduced to 20%.

Other Cotton Goods.

Year.	Value C.I.F.	Duty Obtained.	Rate of Duty.
	£	£	Per cent.
1912	150,068	13,945	10
1913	158,196	14,510	10
1914	116,533	10,771	10
1915	116,460	11,886	10-12
1916	136,970	18,617	15
1917	131,597	17,600	15
1918	167,783	21,869	15
1919	173,934	23,830	15
1920	296,587	41,294	15
1921	135,070	27,862	15-20-25
1922	56,348	12,696	25
1923	66,520	20,108	25
1924	95,562	21,290	25*

* Duty reduced to 20% on 27th November, 1924.

(b) EXPORTS.

The total shipments were valued at the port of shipment at £1,711,438, as compared with £1,731,252 in 1913 and £1,607,225 in 1923. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting vessel; such value includes export duty, cost of packages and all charges incidental to shipment. In reports previous to that for 1922 export duty was not included in such values.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1913.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Produce and Manufacture of the Colony	1,376,603	1,347,115	1,510,353
Coal	—	104,794	63,036
Other British and Foreign Produce Manufactures ..	113,685	95,896	97,346
Specie	240,964	59,420	40,703
Total	£1,731,252	£1,607,225	£1,711,438

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports :—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Ginger (cwt.)	26,605	27,905	38,847
Hides (cwt.)	132	202	206
Kola Nuts (lb.)	6,044,926	5,698,703	5,686,066
Palm Kernels (tons) ..	49,029	59,545	61,117
Palm Oil (tons)	2,076	3,346	3,110
Pepper (lb.)	278,516	328,188	247,342
Piassava (tons)	1,355	1,620	995
Rice (bushels)	1,375	259	928

The "balance of trade" figures (excluding both import and export duty) for the past five years are given in the following table :—

Year.	Imports* (Commercial).	Exports* (Commercial).	Balance of Imports over Exports.	Balance of Exports over Imports.
	£	£	£	£
1920	3,175,835	2,916,173	259,662	—
1921	1,335,885	1,312,148	23,737	—
1922	1,229,210	1,180,255	48,955	—
1923	1,421,928	1,472,714	—	50,786
1924	1,451,596	1,597,712	—	146,116

* Excluding Specie.

Kola Nuts.—Shipments amounted to 5,686,066 lb., valued at £180,976, as compared with 5,698,703 lb., valued at £187,476 in 1923.

The continued slight decrease is due to the falling away of shipments to the Gambia, consequent upon that Colony's indifferent ground-nut crop for the year which reduced the purchasing power of the native.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that Sierra Leone kolas maintained their hold in the French Senegal and Nigerian markets.

The crop raised was satisfactory and the prices obtained were moderate, averaging £5·55 per measure of 176 lb., as against £4·63 in 1923.

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 61,117 tons, being an increase of 1,572 tons over the figure for the preceding year. The value, including duty, amounted to £1,096,386, an increase of £127,589 over the 1923 figure. This quantity constitutes a record in the annual export of palm kernels from the Colony. The improvement in the quality of kernels was fully maintained and local prices were high. The United Kingdom absorbed 97·1 per cent. of the kernels exported, the remainder going to Germany. In 1913 Germany took 87·5 per cent., and the United Kingdom 12·5. In 1924 the United Kingdom obtained one-fifth of its palm kernel supply from Sierra Leone. The European market prices for palm kernels were good, averaging £21 a ton, as against £18·75 in 1923. As from 1st December, however, an increase of 50 per cent. was imposed by the Shipping Companies on freight and lighterage charges, which now stand at 37s. 6d. a ton.

Exports of Palm Kernels since 1912.

						Tons.
1912	...	...	...	...	...	50,751
1913	...	...	...	...	...	49,201
1914	...	...	...	...	...	35,915
1915	...	...	...	...	...	39,624
1916	...	...	...	...	...	45,316
1917	...	...	...	...	...	58,020
1918	...	...	...	...	...	40,816
1919	...	...	...	...	...	50,622
1920	...	...	...	...	...	50,425
1921	...	...	...	...	...	40,409
1922	...	...	...	...	...	49,029
1923	...	...	...	...	...	59,545
1924	...	...	...	...	...	61,117

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 3,110 tons, valued at £93,141, as against 3,346 tons, valued at £102,645, in 1923. Although a slight decrease is shown on the 1923 figures this export is well above the average. The amount exported represents only a fraction of the amount produced, as this commodity forms one of the principal articles of diet locally.

The following table gives the average prices of palm kernels and palm oil in the European market during the last 22 years:—

Palm Kernels.

		£				£	
1903	..	..	8·63	per ton	1914	..	15·52 per ton
1904	..	..	8·51	"	1915	..	12·72 "
1905	..	..	9·57	"	1916	..	15·02 "
1906	..	..	10·88	"	1917	..	14·52 "
1907	..	..	12·82	"	1918	..	16·74 "
1908	..	..	9·87	"	1919	..	23·52 "
1909	..	..	11·25	"	1920	..	27·79 "
1910	..	..	14·98	"	1921	..	16·95 "
1911	..	..	15·33	"	1922	..	17·50 "
1912	..	..	15·63	"	1923	..	18·75 "
1913	..	..	18·72	"	1924	..	21·00 "

Palm Oil.

		£				£	
1903	..	..	15·09	per ton	1914	..	21·99 per ton
1904	..	..	16·97	"	1915	..	23·60 "
1905	..	..	17·33	"	1916	..	23·92 "
1906	..	..	18·32	"	1917	..	28·72 "
1907	..	..	21·07	"	1918	..	32·38 "
1908	..	..	18·53	"	1919	..	34·84 "
1909	..	..	18·77	"	1920	..	59·63 "
1910	..	..	24·24	"	1921	..	40·35 "
1911	..	..	26·73	"	1922	..	35·67 "
1912	..	..	23·00	"	1923	..	35·75 "
1913	..	..	22·95	"	1924	..	39·75 "

This table shows that, while there has been on the whole a steady rise in the average values of both kernels and oils from 1903, the value during 1920 was altogether abnormal.

The following table gives the average monthly prices in the United Kingdom obtained by palm kernels and palm oil during the years 1922, 1923 and 1924 :—

	Palm Kernels.			Palm Oil.		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January ..	£ 17½	£ 18	£ 21	£ 39½	£ 34	£ 40½
February ..	18	18½	20½	37½	36½	41½
March ..	18½	20	19½	45½	38½	40½
April ..	18½	21½	19½	42	38½	37½
May ..	17½	19	19½	36	36	35½
June ..	17½	19	21	33	34½	36½
July ..	17½	17½	21	33	33½	38½
August ..	17½	17	21	32	33	39
September ..	16½	18½	21	31	34½	39
October ..	16½	18½	23	32	35½	42½
November ..	17	19	22½	33½	36½	44
December ..	17½	20½	22½	33½	38	43½

Ginger.—The export of ginger showed an increase of 10,942 cwt. (£59,397) over the figures for the preceding year. In all 13,641 cwt. were shipped to the United Kingdom, and 24,839 cwt. to the United States of America. The United Kingdom market for Sierra Leone ginger is thus shown to be improving, as in 1923 the United States of America absorbed 87 per cent. of the ginger exports from this Colony. The highest price obtainable was 90s. per cwt. for grade A, and 76s. for grade B. The year 1924 may be regarded as highly satisfactory as far as ginger is concerned. In 1923 the highest price obtainable was 51s. 4d. per cwt.

(c) DIRECTION OF TRADE.

Of the total import trade £1,124,955, or 65 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 74·71 per cent. in 1923; £208,725, or 12·06 per cent., was with the United States of America, as compared with 9·52 in 1923; Foreign West African Possessions £85,325, or 4·93 per cent.

Of the export trade £1,253,892, or 73·27 per cent., went to the United Kingdom; £137,556, or 8·04 per cent., to British West African Possessions; and £70,368, or 4·11 per cent. to the United States of America. In 1913 the United Kingdom was responsible for 65·06 per cent. of the import trade, and only 13·29 per cent. of the export, and Germany was responsible for 9·95 per cent. of the import trade and 47·49 per cent. of the export trade.

(d) SHIPPING.

A further increase of 196,379 tons took place in the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the year, though the actual number of vessels showed a decrease of 35 on the 1923 figure. British shipping absorbed almost the whole of this increase in tonnage, and appropriated 70·20 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels entered. American vessels entered showed an increase of 11,468 tons, Dutch vessels entered increased by 25,937 tons, thus taking second place to British vessels and displacing German vessels which occupied this position in 1923. Italian and French shipping increased by 22,829 and 4,743 tons respectively; but German, Swedish, Norwegian and Portuguese showed decreases of 35,022, 14,156, 16,583 and 2,858 tons respectively.

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared in the years 1923 and 1924 :—

Vessels entered.				Increase.		Decrease.		
1923.		1924.						
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ..	635	1,552,488	619	1,659,960	—	107,472	16	—
Sherbro ..	2	1,863	2	77	—	—	—	1,786
Mano Salija	5	6,343	—	—	—	—	5	6,343
Sulima ..	1	1,411	1	1,419	—	8	—	—
Total ..	643	1,562,105	622	1,661,456	—	99,351	21	—

Vessels cleared.				Increase.		Decrease.		
1923.		1924.						
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ..	631	1,549,144	607	1,630,442	—	81,298	24	—
Sherbro ..	4	4,452	7	15,229	3	10,777	—	—
Mano Salija	2	1,415	7	7,323	5	5,908	—	—
Sulima ..	1	4,020	3	3,065	2	—	—	955
Total ..	638	1,559,031	624	1,656,059	—	97,028	14	—

IV. Legislation.

No less than forty-eight Ordinances were passed during the year 1924. The reason for this largely increased number of enactments is to be found in the revision and consolidation of the Ordinances of the Colony and Protectorate undertaken by the Attorney General. A large number of amending Ordinances were passed before the end of the year in order that the revised edition might be as complete and up-to-date as possible, and also

to enable a legislative "moratorium" to be enjoyed during the early months of 1925 when the revision would be nearing completion.

The more important Ordinances of the year were as follows :—

No. 1 of 1924.—"The Liquor Ordinance," defining the classes of spirituous liquors admissible to the Colony.

No. 9 of 1924.—"The Passport Ordinance," rendering the carriage of passports obligatory on persons entering the Colony.

No. 13 of 1924.—"The Wild Animals, Birds and Fish Preservation (Amendment) Ordinance."

No. 17 of 1924.—"The Undesirable Persons (Prevention of Immigration) Ordinance."

No. 19 of 1924.—"The Education Ordinance," revising and consolidating the law in regard to the promotion of Education.

No. 20 of 1924.—"The Aliens Registration Ordinance."

No. 24 of 1924.—"The Protectorate (Amendment) Ordinance," defining the limits of territory to be regarded as Protectorate territory.

No. 25 of 1924.—"The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance," making further provision for the Customs and Trade of the Colony and Protectorate.

No. 26 of 1924.—"The Petroleum Ordinance," providing for the importation, conveyance and storage of petroleum and other inflammable oils, etc.

No. 30 of 1924.—"The Native Produce (Standardization and Grading) Ordinance."

No. 48 of 1924.—"The Customs Tariff Ordinance," revising and consolidating the law relative to Customs duties.

V. Lands and Forests.

The Lands and Forests Department was formed in 1922 when the former Agricultural and Forestry Departments ceased to exist as separate departments and became divisions of the new Department.

A Division of Research has been added during the year, and a chemical laboratory has been fitted up in the new Lands and Forests Office, which is stated to be the most up-to-date of its kind on the West Coast. An agricultural chemist has been appointed in charge of this division, and took up his duties in September. The special work being undertaken by this division is a soil survey of the country, investigations with oil palm products, piassava and the many other products of the country.

An entomologist has also been appointed and arrived in June, his salary being defrayed out of a grant made by the Colonial Research Committee. He is now engaged on a tsetse fly survey of the Colony and Protectorate, and in collecting information respecting the various insect pests affecting the crops of the country.

Sierra Leone took part in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and the Lands and Forests Department undertook, with the aid of all the Political Officers, the collection of exhibits for display in the Sierra Leone Pavilion. The Commissioner of Lands and Forests was appointed Exhibition Commissioner for Sierra Leone and spent most of the year at Wembley. The Sierra Leone Pavilion, although small in size, was generally acclaimed one of the most attractive at Wembley. The Walled City of West Africa, with the Nigerian, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone Pavilions and African Village attracted large crowds of visitors.

The Division of Agriculture carried out, as usual, a large programme of experiments at its central experiment station, Njala.

This Division, for administrative purposes, is divided into provinces and districts according to the political divisions, and a provincial superintendent of agriculture is being placed in charge of each province and a trained native agricultural assistant in charge of each district. The most important work undertaken in the provinces during the year is the encouragement of the cultivation by the people of economic crops as follows :—

Swamp Rice.—The cultivation of swamp rice has been followed in the Skarsies region of the Northern Province for some fifty years or so. Now this is being undertaken in the Southern Province and the inland swamps of the Central Province. The cultivation of swamp rice is extending, and it is hoped that the production will, in a few years, be considerable. Seed rice has been distributed free, and large areas of what has hitherto been considered waste and uncultivable land has been brought under cultivation.

Cocoa.—The cultivation of cocoa, particularly in the Southern Province, has been extended during the year. Nurseries have been established at most villages by agricultural assistants, under the direction of the Commissioner of the Southern Province, and during the year some one hundred and eleven plots were planted up with cocoa on plantation lines. Within a few years the export of cocoa should be appreciable.

Coconuts.—A scheme for encouraging the cultivation of coconuts in the littoral belt of the Southern Province was commenced last year and continued during the year with increased activity. Seed nuts were purchased by the Government and given to the natives. During the year 26,000

seed nuts were planted in 112 nurseries, which raises the total of seed nuts planted since 1923 to 35,000. During the year 4,300 young palms raised in 1923 were planted out in 47 small plots.

Cotton.—A special effort was made during the year to establish the cultivation of American cotton. Some 5 tons of Allen's Long Staple cotton seed was imported from Nigeria and distributed to the Chiefs and people in the Northern and Central Provinces. The crop was unfortunately almost ruined by the heavy rains which fell at the time the crop was ripening, and it was in consequence nearly everywhere a failure. The British Cotton Growing Association presented the Government with a ginning and baling plant, which was erected at Boia Junction towards the end of the year, and opened by His Excellency. Altogether twenty-one bales were produced and shipped. The experiments are being continued both with imported and indigenous cotton.

Ginger.—The production of ginger has increased considerably, and the price was exceptionally high, which made for a successful year. Some 38,847 cwt. were exported valued at £105,633. The cultivation has now been taken up in the Northern Province and increased production may be expected in 1925 owing to the good prices paid this year.

Other crops which have been encouraged are maize, coffee, castor beans, ground-nuts, sisal, Mauritius hemp and tomatoes (for export).

The Division of Forests has continued its work of reservation, and during the year the total area of protected forest (including reserves and restricted areas) has been brought up to 604.45 square miles.

The Division is now divided into four working circles and an Assistant Conservator is in charge of each circle. The Eastern Circle supplied the Railway during the year with some 35,984 board feet of timber. The Western Circle opened the gum-copal forests for tapping in 1923, and the collection of the gum took place in 1924.

Inspection of Produce.—The inspection of produce has been continued and the Inspector spent some time in touring the Protectorate instructing the people in the better preparation of crops for the market. There was a decrease in the number of cases in the contravention of the Native Produce Ordinance, which is satisfactory, as it shows that greater care is being taken in the preparation of produce for the market.

During the year an Agricultural Show was held at Sembehun in the Southern Province, and was, as the previous Provincial Shows have been, a distinct success.

Agricultural Instruction.—A scheme for the training of Agricultural apprentices and the senior pupils of the Njala College was inaugurated in January under the management of an

European Agricultural Instructor, but received a set back owing to the untimely and accidental death of the Instructor. His successor was appointed in October, and with his arrival, and the erection of a laboratory and library, the work was in full progress again by the end of the year.

The Department acquired, during the year, a commodious building in the central part of Freetown for its offices, and provision is being made for a Museum to contain a reference collection of the products of the country, to be arranged in a suitable manner so that visitors to Sierra Leone can obtain an idea of the resources of the country, and pupils of the schools can make the Museum a profitable place for study.

VI. Education.

GENERAL.

The Colony is well provided with both elementary and secondary schools; there is considerable educational activity in the Protectorate, but much yet remains to be done there.

I. COLONY.

The Government Educational Institutions in the Colony at the end of the year comprised the Model School, Freetown, the elementary schools at Wilberforce, Waterloo and Benguema. On the opening of the Government Secondary School at King Tom, referred to hereafter, it is intended to convert the Model School into a Training College for Teachers. At the end of the year the Model School had 301 boys and 63 girls on its roll.

The following schedule gives details of all elementary schools in the Colony and Protectorate in receipt of Government assistance :—

Schools.	No.	Number on Roll.	Average attend- ance.
Government	15	1,309	1,044
Church of England	36	2,888	2,202
Wesleyan Methodist	29	2,591	1,682
Roman Catholic	8	1,203	846
United Brethren in Christ ..	15	883	594
United Methodist	11	860	580
Mohammedan	5	732	428
Countess of Huntingdon	3	164	108
United Brethren in Africa ..	2	135	105
American Methodist Episcopal	2	104	81
American Wesleyan	2	78	75
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1	45	29
Total	129	10,992	7,774

Secondary Schools.

There are eleven secondary schools in the Colony, excluding the Government Model School. Of these, four are assisted schools. The four assisted schools received £920 in Government grants.

Of the secondary schools, the principal are Fourah Bay College (affiliated to the University of Durham), the Grammar School, the Wesleyan Boys' High School and the Albert Academy for boys, the Annie Walsh School and the Wesleyan Girls' High School for Girls.

The old naval victualling station at King Tom was converted into a Government secondary school for boys but was not opened before the end of the year. The curriculum will include the subjects required for the Cambridge Examinations for Junior and Senior Certificates, with a distinct bias towards science, a subject which is at present not fully provided for by the other secondary schools.

Examinations were held for all schools for the Elementary and Intermediate Examinations; but the future holding of these examinations has been abolished under a new Education Ordinance and Code passed in 1924.

Examinations are held for the Cambridge Local Examinations, and the following were successful during the year :—

	<i>Entered.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>
Preliminary	29	22
Junior Certificate	36	24
School Certificate	16	7

Trade Schools.

There is a non-aided Trades School at Waterloo, at which useful work is done in joinery, carpentry, etc.

The Sir Alfred Jones' Trades School was opened in 1920; it is partly supported by the interest on a sum of money left by the late Sir Alfred Jones, partly by Government grant.

II. PROTECTORATE.

The Government Institutions in the Protectorate are :—

- (1) The Bo School for the sons and nominees of Chiefs.
- (2) The Agricultural College, Njala.
- (3) Bumpe School.
- (4) Baiima School.
- (5) Gbangbama School.
- (6) Gambia School

and six vernacular schools referred to in a subsequent paragraph.

The Bo School has 154 boys on the roll and maintains the high standard of efficiency set in previous years.

Njala Agricultural College is a boarding school in the Central Province and has 110 boys on the roll. It was founded for the purpose of training teachers with a practical knowledge of agriculture to take charge of small vernacular schools throughout the Protectorate, and it operates in conjunction with the Government Experimental Station at Njala. The year 1923 saw the first fruits of the College's work in that six vernacular schools were built and staffed with old pupils of the College; at all of these steady progress was made throughout the year 1924.

The Bumpo School had an average attendance of 57 boys, the Baiima School of 18.

VII. Government Departments and Institutions.

(a) HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The Colonial Hospital was completely destroyed by fire early in 1920 and all records were burnt. Pending the construction of the new hospital, which was nearing completion by the end of 1921, temporary accommodation for a limited number of patients was arranged in the old Law Courts building, there being a male ward and a small maternity ward.

A portion of the new hospital (known as the Connaught Hospital) was completed in 1922, consisting of three blocks of two wards each, operating theatre, kitchen, laundry, fumigating block and staff latrine and bath block.

In addition to the above the new hospital was planned to comprise three more blocks of wards, quarters for the resident surgeon and nursing sisters, offices and stores. No work on these additions was undertaken in 1924 but a resumption is contemplated at the beginning of 1926.

Patients admitted to the Colonial Hospital numbered 1,862, and there were 129 deaths; 71 operations were performed. 263 patients were admitted to the Maternity Ward, Colonial Hospital: this is the largest number for this ward.

At the Connaught Hospital 10,955 outpatients were treated, the total attendances being 49,430.

At the Lunatic Asylum, Kissy, 43 were admitted during the year and 14 died, the total number treated during the year being 144. The patients who are mentally and physically fit are employed on light work.

There were 47 admissions to the Kissy Infirmary during the year; a total of 315 cases were treated; there were 62 deaths.

European Hospital.—There were 150 admissions, 50 being Government officials. Two non-officials died. At the end of the year the European Hospital was transferred from Freetown to Hill Station and housed in a building formerly used as the Governor's Lodge.

(b) POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits numbered 8,189 and amounted to £21,902 5s. 9d., showing an increase of 282 in number and of £708 4s. 1d. in value when compared with the preceding year. The withdrawals totalled 4,563 and amounted to £26,194, showing an increase of 156 in number and a decrease £543 18s. 9d. in value in comparison with the figures for 1923.

The average value of each deposit was £2 3s. 6d., and of each withdrawal £5 14s. 10d., as against £2 13s. 7d. and £6 1s. 10d. in the previous year.

During the year, 1,154 accounts were opened and 1,189 closed, showing a net decrease of 35. At the end of the year the names of 5,001 depositors were on the books, and the amount standing to their credit, inclusive of interest, was £62,309 19s. 3½d. The average value of each account was, at the close of the year, £12 9s. 2d.

The total sum invested is £61,575 18s. 4d. The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,321 2s. 1d. The interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,431 5s. 4d.

(c) PORT AND MARINE.

The most important work of the Port and Marine Department during 1924 was the clearance of a channel on the Great Scarcies River between Tawiya and Kambia. The work was not entirely completed by the end of the year, but there is now a channel capable of taking vessels with a 6 foot draught and beacons have been erected to assist its navigation.

VIII. Judicial Statistics.**(a) POLICE.**

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, police work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of the Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1924 the Police Force consisted of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, three Inspectors and three African Sub-Inspectors and 311 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

The health of the force was not improved during the year. There was an outbreak of "Coryza" which, though not severe, affected a great number of men. There were three deaths during the year to none in the previous year.

The following table shows the cases reported and arrests made in 1923 and 1924 :—

Year.	Cases reported.	Arrests made.	Convictions.	Percentage convictions to arrests.
1923	2,370	2,362	1,897	80·03
1924	2,510	2,363	1,895	80·02

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the two years :—

	1923.	1924.
Murder	2	2
House-breaking	14	17
Burglary	13	33
Shop-breaking	2	3
Rape	5	8
Larceny	316	391
Receiving	52	65

(b) FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Brigade is under the control of the City Council. There was no serious outbreak of fire during the year, but there were eight fires, the total value of property destroyed being about £45, none of which was covered by insurance.

(c) PRISONS.

The following are the admissions to Freetown Prison during the two years 1923 and 1924 :—

	1923.	1924.
Males	990	1,130
Females	20	14
Juveniles	30	46

The continued increase in the number of juvenile offenders is unsatisfactory and a Special Committee considered the matter, and it is hoped that their recommendations may result in active measures being taken to deal with the question.

The increase in the number of prisoners convicted during 1924 is due, in some measure, to the activity of the Police Department, particularly the Criminal Investigation Branch. Criminals in this country seldom work alone, and it is now quite common for as many as three, and even four, persons to be charged in connection with one offence, and a conviction follows in most cases.

The general health was very good. There was no epidemic and for the first time in the history of the Prison there was not a single case of Beri-Beri—new or recurrent. This state of affairs has to a great extent been attributed to the changes in the methods of cooking the food and the use of fresh vegetables provided from the Prison Farm. There were 188 admissions to hospital during the year and 10 deaths. The diseases in the cases of the deaths were not in any of the cases contracted in the Prison.

In the Protectorate prisons 799 persons were committed to prison in 1924 as compared with 783 in 1923, the daily average for the year being 161.

(d) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

In the Supreme Court of the Colony 65 persons were convicted—7 for larceny, 40 for other offences against property, as compared with 34 in 1923, of which 19 were for offences against property.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate 38 persons were convicted, of which 2 were for murder, 1 for manslaughter, and 33 for other offences against the peace, as compared with 12 in 1923, of which 4 were for other offences against the peace.

In the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, 2,294 persons were convicted summarily, 587 being for larceny and 1,103 for offences against revenue laws and kindred laws, as compared with 1,612 convictions in 1923, 501 for larceny, and 1,588 for offences against revenue laws.

In the District Commissioner's Court at Waterloo there were 50 convictions, 81 being for larceny, as against 120 in 1923, of which 40 were for praedial larceny.

IX. Vital Statistics.

(a) EUROPEAN POPULATION.

The number of European residents during 1924 in the Colony and Protectorate was :—

Officials	...	...	...	...	198
Non-Officials*	...	...	...	...	420
Military	...	...	...	...	486

(* This figure includes white Americans.)

The average number of officials resident at any one time during the year was 164, as compared with 102 in 1923. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths of Europeans

from climatic and non-climatic causes in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912 :—

		Landed from Vessels,		Colony and Protectorate.				
Year.				Non-Military.		Military.		Total.
		Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic	Non-Climatic	Clim.	Non-Clim.	
1912	..	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913	..	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914	..	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915	..	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916	..	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917	..	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918*	..	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919	..	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920	..	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921	..	—	1	5	3	—	—	9
1922	..	1	1	5	4	1	1	13
1923†	..	—	—	4	1	2	—	7
1924	..	1	—	3	2	2	—	8

(b) POPULATION, BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Population 1921 Census.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births
Freetown	44,142	22·2	25·9	321
Colony other than Free- town.	41,021	20·1	19·2	261

Owing to the non-registration of many births, the "available" birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the Infantile Mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, appears a good deal higher than it really is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and "Infant Welfare" work is being undertaken on an increasing scale with a view to reducing it. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded the females by 28·5 per cent. and 24·3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

(c) SANITATION.

The port of Freetown was not in quarantine during the year. Quarantine was declared against ports in the Canary Islands, the Gold Coast, Nigeria and Dahomey, owing to yellow fever.

* Influenza epidemic.

† (1923) Two Europeans died on board ships in Freetown Harbour in addition to the above; one from a climatic, the other from a non-climatic cause.

Two cases of smallpox were reported in Freetown, and there were 10 cases in the Protectorate. Chicken-pox was fairly common both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

(d) RECORD OF VACCINATIONS PERFORMED.

	1924.	1923.	1922.
vaccinated	9,636	21,517	26,448
successful	4,925	10,294	9,795
unsuccessful	2,052	4,266	6,302
not inspected	2,659	6,957	10,351

Two cases of anthrax in cattle were reported in Freetown, and dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

There was a marked reduction in the incidence of dysentery in Freetown, only 42 cases being reported as against 138 in 1923.

Tuberculosis appears to be increasing, and a committee was formed towards the end of the year to make recommendations dealing with this problem.

There were no cases of diphtheria, influenza, or cerebro-spinal meningitis.

The Superintendent of Freetown Water Works reports that there was no shortage of water during the year. The average consumption was 425,530 gallons.

The Sanitary Department purchased and destroyed 12,708 flies, paying for them at the rate of 1d. each.

(e) CLIMATE.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall throughout the year and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70°. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rises above 95°, and there is always a sufficient daily variation of temperature to render the mornings and evenings pleasantly cool. It is not always damp—speaking generally, there are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country. There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunder-storms known as tornadoes, which travel in a direction from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall.

The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually

Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 ft. above sea level, for the past 40 years are now available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands.

*Average Rainfall, Freetown
(Tower Hill).*

Period.					Average Rainfall.
1882-1891	..	..	..	..	166·07
1892-1901	..	..	..	..	165·15
1902-1911	..	..	..	..	156·00
1912-1921	..	..	..	..	122·66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204·19 in. in 1883, and the lowest 102·34 in. in 1914.

In December and January, Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east Trades, and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind and is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in 1924 was 149·67 in.; this almost reaches the average for the past 40 years (152·47 in.).

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 6·05 in. on 21st September. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 62 deg. on 6th January; the highest, 94 deg. on 5th and 8th January, 3rd March and 2nd May.

(f) CONDITIONS OF LIVING IN SIERRA LEONE.

There are facilities for playing cricket, football, tennis and golf. As the country is hilly, cycling is laborious, and horses do not thrive; but for some distance out from the town the roads are good enough for motor-cars and motor-cycles to be used.

Local meat is by no means as good as good English meat but when properly cooked is quite nutritious. Excellent fresh fish can be bought, and, apart from potatoes and onions, which are imported, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices throughout the year.

A cold storage plant, from which fresh meat and fish, game, etc., can be procured, has been started by one of the European firms in Freetown.

(g) POPULATION (COLONY AND PROTECTORATE).

A Census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken on the 24th November, 1921, and it was published in 1922.

The report shows that the population of Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) has increased from 1,403,132 in 1911 to 1,541,311 in 1921, or by approximately 9·8 per cent. The Census of 1901 recorded a population of 1,024,178 only, so that the increase in the decade 1902-1911 was apparently 37 per cent.; but the apparent great increase in population during the decade 1902-1911 cannot necessarily be attributed to actual increase in numbers, but is more probably due to inaccurate estimates made in 1901.

The population of the Colony proper shows a very considerable increase, viz., from 75,572 to 85,163. This increase is wholly due to a striking augmentation of the population of Freetown, viz., from 34,090 to 44,142.

The estimated native population of the Protectorate has increased from 1,323,151 in 1911 to 1,450,903 in 1921. For the distribution of Protectorate population *see* "Political Administration."

X. Postal, Telegraphs and Telephones.

(a) POSTAL.

The number of post offices and postal agencies open at the end of the year was 41. Money Order business was transacted at 18 offices and Postal Order business at 32.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,617,238, as compared with 1,493,981 in 1923. The total was made up as follows:—

	Letters, Postcards, and Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured	Ordinary	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom	370,112	11,772	14,745	2,041
Despatched to United Kingdom	173,491	20,981	2,249	125
Received from West African Colonies	123,115	16,621	5,908	9
Despatched to West African Colonies	108,528	9,912	1,385	18
Internal	711,134	33,509	11,583	—

The Money Order transactions numbered 6,417 and amounted to £60,960, showing an increase of 590 in number, and an increase

of £6,754 in value, when compared with the figures of the previous year.

Money Orders.	1924.		1923.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Received from United Kingdom..	391	2,138	363	1,621
Despatched to United Kingdom..	1,905	13,699	1,961	14,152
Received from West African Colonies	750	9,221	590	6,945
Despatched to West African Colonies	478	5,641	406	4,470
Inland	2,893	30,291	2,507	27,088
Total	6,417	60,960	5,827	54,286

Postal Orders issued numbered 50,844 and amounted to £34,158, as compared with 44,183 to the value of £30,215 in 1923. 43,650 Orders, amounting to £31,212, were paid, an increase of 5,198 in number and £3,412 in value, when compared with the figures of the previous year.

The Postal Revenue totalled £11,952, showing a decrease of £959 as compared with 1923. The customs duties collected in respect of parcels amounted to £8,135, and stamps to the value of £3,417 were sold in connection with inland revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £17,570, which shows an increase of £24 when compared with the figures of 1923.

(b) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The telegraphs and telephones are under the management of the Railway Department. The Head Office is at Water Street, Freetown, and there is a combined telegraph and telephone service to Pendembu (227½ miles from Freetown), with important transmitting stations at Boia (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles from Freetown). From Boia there is a telegraph and telephone service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles). From Mano on the railway there is a branch line through Serabu and Sengama to Bendu (71½ miles), whence telegrams are taken to York Island and Bonthe by a motor-boat service, and from Sengama there is a branch line to Pujehun (47 miles). A branch line of about 3 miles was constructed from Loawa, on the Sumbuya-Bendu line in the Southern Province, to Matru.

From Songo (on the railway) there is a telephone to Ilo Ilo Lokko. During the year this line was extended on a northern direction through Mange to the trading centre of Kambia. There is thus now a through line from Songo to Kambia.

The total number of telegrams despatched during 1923 and 1924 (exclusive of messages sent on railway service) was :—

	1923.	1924.
Public Telegrams	43,524	45,506
Government Telegrams ...	12,447	18,299

The revenue from telegrams was £5,500, as compared with £1,127 in 1923.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and sent through the office in Freetown of the African Direct Telegraph Company.

There is a local telephone service in Freetown with 90 subscribers, of which 30 are Government offices and quarters, 23 are railway offices and 35 private subscribers.

The telephone revenue in 1924 amounted to £1,334 and the maintenance cost £908.

XI. Communications.

(a) RAILWAYS.

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½ Main Line. Water Street to Pendembu.

104 Branch Line. Boia to Kamabai.

5½ Hill Station Line.

1 Branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.

338

Approximately 17 miles of sidings at stations, etc., are in operation.

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1924, was 1,698,668.

The following are the comparative figures for 1913, 1923 and 1924 :—

	1913.	1923.	1924.
General Revenue	£168,418	£189,297	£219,045
Expenditure	90,155	183,205	198,307

The amount of revenue collected during the year constitutes record. The expenditure includes an item of £41,736 for extraordinary works, which exceeds the corresponding item of 1923 by £13,306. The actual increase in working expenses amounted to £1,796.

	1913.	1923.	1924.
Receipts per train-mile (in pence) ..	114·11	99·26	113·79
Working expenses per train-mile (in pence)	61·09	96·07	93·96
Passengers carried	438,388	583,290	543,918

The total rolling-stock in use consisted of 46 engines, 77 coaching vehicles and 343 goods vehicles.

The gross tonnage carried was 68,493 tons, as compared with 61,200 in 1923 and 62,084 in 1913.

(b) ROADS.

The following table gives the particulars of the first-class motor roads constructed or under construction in the Protectorate at the end of the year 1924.

Roads.	Total mileage.	Mileage formation completed December 1924.	Mileage permanent- ly bridged.	Mileage temporarily bridged for motor (na- tive stick bridges).
Kumrabai-Bo-Pujehun ..	107	98½ (c)	43 (a)	31½
Boadgibu - Blama - Panguma	62½ (d)	62½ (d)	44 (e)	18½
Segbwema-Bandajuma ..	26	24	16	10
Pendembu - Kailahun - Mofindo	24	24	24	—
Moyamba-Sembelun ..	19	19	18	—
Sumbuya-Koribundu ..	21	21	21	—
Koribundu-Blama ..	27	2	—	2
Total	286½	251	166	61½

These roads serve as feeders by motor transport for the important railway centres, Pendembu, Blama, Segbwema, Hangha, Bo and Moyamba.

It has been reckoned that a first-class road with permanent bridges costs about £800 a mile to construct. Experiments are being made with bridges of specially selected sawn timbers. It is estimated that such bridges should last for at least four or five years, and that they should cost a very great deal less than concrete bridges.

(c) WATERWAYS.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light draught vessels. Even so, large quantities of produce are brought to Freetown and Bonthe by three waterways, and steps are being taken to open them up further. During 1924 a considerable amount of work was done in opening up and buoying the waterways in the Sherbro River, the Port Lokko Creek and the Scarcies River (*vide* "Port and Marine").

- (a) Bo-Mandu 18 miles. Bo to Koribundu 22 miles.
- (b) Koribundu-Pujehun 26 miles. Mandu towards Mongheri 8 miles.
- (c) Bo-Pujehun 48 miles. Bo towards Mongheri 27½ miles. Between Mongheri and Kumrabai 24 miles.
- (d) Boadgibu-Blama 24 miles. Blama-Hangha 19 miles. Hangha-Panguma 20 miles.
- (e) Boadgibu-Blama 24 miles. Hangha-Panguma 20 miles.

XII. Public Works.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Foremost among these were :—

- (a) The completion of the foreshore protective works along the western side of the new Colonial Hospital. This was begun in 1922 in consequence of the landslide, which threatened the stability of the Hospital site.
- (b) Conversion of Governor's Lodge, Hill Station, into a European Hospital.
- (c) The conversion of an old building at King Tom into a Government Secondary School.
- (d) New female ward, Kissy Asylum.
- (e) Outfall drains at Oxford and Savage Streets, Freetown.
- (f) Alterations and repairs to Lands and Forests Department Offices.
- (g) Panguma water supply (to be completed in 1925).
- (h) Additional buildings at Bo School.

XIII. Freetown City Council.

The City Council of Freetown, a partly elected and partly nominated body, is charged with the lighting of the streets of the city, the licensing and control of parks, markets, slaughter houses, etc., the administration of the water supply, and the maintenance and control of the Fire Brigade. It also is the licensing authority for vehicles and for certain classes of licensable occupations.

The main sources of the Council's revenue are estimated for 1924-25 at :—

	£
Water Supply and Rates	9,347
City Rates, Licences, etc.	8,268

Its total estimated expenditure for the year 1924-25 is £19,555.

The annual value of rateable hereditaments in Freetown has risen from £56,480 in 1916-18 to £85,556 in 1924-25.

XIV. Political Administration.

(a) COLONY.

The Colony proper consists of the peninsula of Sierra Leone with certain islands in the vicinity, Sherbro and York Islands and Turner's Peninsula. Under this section, however, it is only necessary to deal with the Sierra Leone Peninsula and adjacent islands, as the island of Sherbro, York Island and Turner's Peninsula, although Colony, are administered as Protectorate*, and are dealt with in the next succeeding sub-head.

* Except an area of 10 sq. miles, including the town of Bonthe, which is administered under the Sherbro Judicial District Advisory Board.

The peninsula is divided for administrative purposes into two Districts, viz., (a) the Freetown Police District, comprising Freetown and the villages in its vicinity, and the islands of Bunce and Tassoh, and (b) the Headquarters District, consisting of the remainder of the peninsula and the Bananas Islands, administered by a District Commissioner stationed at Waterloo. The District Commissioner of the Headquarters District (as well as the District Commissioner of the Bonthe District above referred to) is assisted by a detachment of the Police Force placed at his disposal by the Commissioner of Police.

The area and population of the divisions of the Colony (i.e., of the territory that is administered as such) are as follows :—

District.	Area. sq. miles.	Population.
Police (including Freetown) ...	50	56,980
Headquarters	210	23,992
Sherbro Judicial	10	4,281

(b) PROTECTORATE.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Northern and Central Provinces are each sub-divided into four districts, and the Southern Province into five, under District Commissioners.

The area and population of each District are as follows :—

	Sq. miles.	Approximate Native Population.
<i>Northern Province.</i>		
Port Lokko (Headquarters Port Lokko)	2,160	153,300
Batkanu (Headquarters Batkanu) ...	2,940	154,600
Bombali (Headquarters Makene) ...	3,300	173,350
Koinadugu (Headquarters Kaballa) ...	5,450	85,700
<i>Central Province.</i>		
Moyamba (Headquarters Moyamba) ...	1,540	100,696
Konno (Headquarters Panguma) ...	2,400	167,450
Kennema (Headquarters Kennema) ...	2,190	168,531
Pendembu (Headquarters Pendembu)...	1,440	151,591
<i>Southern Province.</i>		
Gbangbama (Headquarters Gbangbama)	1,620	69,500
Sumbuya (Headquarters Sumbuya) ...	1,030	98,758
Pujehun (Headquarters Pujehun) ...	1,140	97,273
Mano River (Headquarters Zimmi) ...	890	
Bonthe (Headquarters Bonthe) ...	880	32,154
	<hr/> 26,980	<hr/> 1,450,903

The total European Political Staff consists of only 27 European officers, five or six of whom are usually on leave.

The remaining 22 officers administer an area of 26,980 square miles; in other words, on an average each officer is in charge of some 1,230 square miles. To help him he has a clerk and, may be, about a dozen members of the Court Messenger Force, a disciplined body of Protectorate natives performing, in the Protectorate, such functions as in the Colony are discharged by the Police Force, as well as other duties that the exigencies of the Protectorate administration demand.

XV. West African Frontier Force.

The Sierra Leone Battalion forms part of the West African Frontier Force, the other component parts of which are the Nigeria Regiment, the Gold Coast Regiment and the Gambia Company.

The Battalion has its Headquarters at Daru in the Pendembu District of the Central Province, a town on the Main Line of the Railway, some 214 miles from Freetown. One Company is stationed at Makene in the Bombali District of the Northern Province, an important trading centre on the Branch line of the Railway, 148 miles from Freetown.

Imperial Institute.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR
1924 FOR SIERRA LEONE.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS AND ENQUIRIES.

Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government Officers were furnished to the Government of Sierra Leone during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts. Copies of the reports were also supplied to the Exhibition Commissioner at Wembley at his request for use in the Information Bureau in the Sierra Leone Pavilion, where many of the products were displayed.

Information relating to Sierra Leone products was supplied to enquirers.

Palm Oil.—Five samples of oil obtained from various commercial sources in Sierra Leone were forwarded for examination in connection with complaints which had been received by the Lands and Forests Department that shipments of palm oil from the Colony had been found to contain large quantities of water, the presence of which could not be detected when buying the oil. It was also stated to be the practice in certain parts of the Colony to adulterate the oil with substances such as pounded mangrove bark and native-prepared potash, and information as to the presence of such adulterants in the samples forwarded was desired. The examination of the samples at the Imperial Institute indicated that four of them contained excessive percentages of water, but that the oils were otherwise unadulterated.

Information was also furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests regarding the standards of purity recognised in the United Kingdom for palm oil, and the methods of determining the amounts of moisture and impurities. Particulars of suitable processes for testing palm oil, and of the apparatus required, were also supplied.

Kogai or Egusi Seed.—This seed is used by the natives as food, and a report on its nutritive value was desired. The examination of the sample showed that the seeds contain good percentages of fat and proteins and should therefore be of value as a foodstuff, especially in admixture with materials rich in carbohydrates.

This Kogai seed was stated to be derived from a plant belonging to the Cucurbitaceae and it resembles the seeds of *Citrullus vulgaris*. Several samples of the latter seed from West Africa have been examined at the Imperial Institute, and it has been shown that they would find a market in the United Kingdom as a source of oil. The Kogai seed yielded about the same quantity of oil as the *C. vulgaris* seed, and the oil was of similar character.

If offered in commercial quantities Kogai seeds would be readily saleable in the United Kingdom, and would realise about £17 to £18 per ton delivered in the United Kingdom (May, 1924). It was suggested by the Imperial Institute that the possibility of producing the seed for export might be considered.

Kola Nuts.—At the request of the Exhibition Commissioner at Wembley the possibility of finding an outlet in the United Kingdom for fresh kola nuts was investigated. The results were not very promising, but it was suggested that it might be worth while to forward a trial consignment of the fresh nuts to this country to test the market.

Gum Copal.—In connection with a proposal to increase the production of Sierra Leone copal by planting the trees on an extensive scale in new areas, information was furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests regarding the demand in the United Kingdom for West African copal obtained by tapping living trees, as distinct from the "fossil" variety. Suggestions were also made as to the possibility of cleaning and grading the resin in the Colony in future.

Monkey Apple Wood (Anisophylla laurina).—In continuation of the investigation referred to in the statement for 1923 a consignment of monkey apple ("Kondi" or "Kanti") wood was forwarded in order that its commercial possibilities in the United Kingdom might be ascertained. Mechanical and working tests were carried out at the Institute, and specimens were submitted to timber merchants and to manufacturers of furniture and brushes. The wood has a highly ornamental figure, but is rather heavy and has a great tendency to "check," even when carefully dried. The timber merchants were of opinion that it would only

be suitable for special purposes, and that in these circumstances it is unlikely that firms would interest themselves in the timber or stock it against possible sales. The furniture manufacturers reported that the wood was too heavy and dense for their purposes, and the brushmakers also offered the same opinion, adding that the liability of the wood to split in manufacture would prevent it from "making up" satisfactorily for brush backs. The prospects of finding a market for Monkey Apple wood in the United Kingdom are therefore not promising.

Elephant Grass.—A sample of Elephant grass, forwarded for report as to its suitability for paper-making, was considerably stouter than the African Elephant grass previously examined at the Imperial Institute, and was probably of older growth. This grass has been found to yield a readily bleachable pulp, producing strong paper of good quality, and the Sierra Leone sample, although thicker and therefore needing more drastic treatment than usual, gave similar results. Specimens of the paper produced in the trials were supplied for exhibition in the Sierra Leone Pavilion at Wembley.

Mangrove Bark.—The examination of a sample of mangrove bark showed that, although containing rather more tannin than is usually found in West African bark, it was much inferior to the commercial East African product. Such bark would not be worth exportation, but could be used for tanning in Sierra Leone or for the manufacture of mangrove extract.

Dyestuffs.—A sample of turmeric resembled the Indian product in general appearance, but the "fingers" were smaller, and commercial experts were of opinion that it would probably be difficult to dispose of supplies of similar character in the United Kingdom. In reporting on this product, the Institute suggested that a trial consignment might be forwarded to test the market.

Samples of "Njala-wawai" leaves (*Lonchocarpus sp.*), which are used by the natives as a source of indigo dye, were forwarded in order that their value in comparison with true indigo might be determined. They were found to be identical with a sample of "Gara" from Sierra Leone which was investigated at the Imperial Institute some years ago.

The material appears to contain an unstable indigo-yielding constituent which is readily converted into indigo when the leaves are dried. The present sample contained about 1 per cent. of actual indigo, but no indican or other indigo-yielding constituent could be detected. The leaves would be of no value in the United Kingdom and could only serve for the preparation of indigo in Sierra Leone.

At the request of the Exhibition Commissioner specimens of cotton and woollen yarn were dyed at the Imperial Institute with crude indigo prepared from the leaves, and were displayed in the Sierra Leone Pavilion at Wembley.

Soil.—A sample of soil upon which it was proposed to plant cotton and maize was examined at the request of the Commissioner of Lands and Forests. Recommendations were made as to the manurial treatment required.

Ndawei Bark.—A sample of Ndawei bark (*Parinarium excelsum*), which is used by various tribes in Sierra Leone for medicinal purposes, was examined, but no evidence was obtained of the presence of any constituents likely to render the bark of interest in European medicine.

Fibre.—A sample of Ningei fibre (*Dracaena Mannii*) was found to be of short staple and somewhat brittle, and not of much commercial value. The preparation of the fibre for export is unlikely to prove remunerative.

Cotton.—Reports were furnished on the quality and commercial value in the United Kingdom of samples of Allen's Long Staple cotton grown experimentally at various localities in the Northern Province. The cotton was on the whole of good quality, but rather irregular in length. Such cotton would be readily saleable in the United Kingdom at a price 1d. or 2d. per lb. in advance of that of "fully good middling" American cotton.

Cocoa.—Information was supplied to a firm of merchants as to the cause of the defective condition of samples of cocoa from the Sherbro District.

Cassava.—The names of firms manufacturing machinery suitable for grating cassava were supplied to the Exhibition Commissioner.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The Imperial Institute was allotted space in H.M. Government Pavilion at Wembley for an exhibit to illustrate its work in promoting the utilisation of the raw materials of the Empire. The nature and scope of the investigations carried out were indicated by selected examples from each of the principal groups of raw materials, and the following products from Sierra Leone were included :—

Oil Palm products; Monkey Apple and Pooli timbers; Cotton; Gorli seed and fat, and also chaulmoogric acid made from the fat; Brick and Tile clays, with specimens made in the technical trials at the Institute.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following articles of interest to the Colony were published in the "Bulletin" during the year :—

"Coffee from Sierra Leone."

"Elephant Grass from Sierra Leone."

"The Present Position of Sisal Hemp Cultivation, with Special Reference to the British Empire."

"The Banana and its Cultivation, with Special Reference to the British Empire."

"Cement Manufacture and its Possibilities in the Crown Colonies and Protectorates."

SIERRA LEONE COURT.

change has been made in the situation or area of the Court the year.

connection with the Sierra Leone Pavilion at the British Exhibition at Wembley, the Collections staff of the were consulted on various points regarding the display bits and gave assistance and advice.

following additions to the Court have been received from Exhibition Commissioner : A kola bly, with packing material samples of fresh kola nuts ; a specimen of the piassava palm giving the source of piassava fibre, and samples of the pre-fibre ; a collection of prepared specimens of Sierra Leone ; samples of cotton and other fibres ; ginger ; cereals ; native foodstuffs ; and miscellaneous products, all of have been placed on exhibition. In addition, bulk samples in products were handed over by the Exhibition Commissioner for the purpose of distribution to enquirers and to

hundred prints of photographs of Sierra Leone scenes negatives by Mr. M. T. Dawe have also been received for the Court.

tures on Sierra Leone, with explanation of the exhibits in Court, have been given to the public and to parties from by the Guide Lecturer and by the officers in charge of sections. Specimens of Sierra Leone products have been d to schools for teaching purposes and to other enquirers. postcard views of Sierra Leone have been placed on sale Central Stand.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes for the Colonial Office the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1923-24, No. 1262 1s. 6d.	JAMAICA, 1923, No. 1218 1s. 3d.
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COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT for the period April 1st, 1914, to March 31st, 1923, No. 1230 .. 2s. 6d.	SOMALILAND, 1924, No. 1271 6d.
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GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246 6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1924, No. 1265 6d.
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PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) 2s.

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No. 1276.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1190 and 1218, price 1s. 3d. each)



PRINTED IN JAMAICA.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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JAMAICA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, within N. lat. $17^{\circ} 42' 20''$ and $18^{\circ} 32' 30''$ and W. long. $76^{\circ} 11' 55''$ and $78^{\circ} 23' 35''$. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, the extreme length being 144 miles, and the greatest width 49 miles.

2. The island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

<i>Surrey.</i>		<i>Middlesex.</i>		<i>Cornwall.</i>	
	Sq. Mls.		Sq. Mls.		Sq. Mls.
Kingston ..	7	St. Catherine ..	470	St. Elizabeth ..	462
St. Andrew ..	166	St. Mary ..	249	Trelawny ..	333
St. Thomas ..	274	Clarendon ..	474	St. James ..	234
Portland ..	285	St. Ann ..	476	Hanover ..	167
		Manchester ..	302	Westmoreland ..	308
Total	732		1,971		1,504

giving a total of 4,207 square miles, equal to 2,692,480 acres, of which, approximately 646 square miles or 413,440 acres are flat, consisting of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison, it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the English Counties of Surrey, Middlesex and Cornwall by about the extent of Lancashire. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 203 per square mile. The island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, Spain, Turkey or Russia. The Colony with its Dependencies comprises a little more than a third of the area and contains nearly a half of the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable. From a tropical temperature of 80° to 86° on the sea coast, the thermometer falls to 45° and 50° at the tops of the highest mountains, and with a dryness of temperature that renders the climate of the mountains of Jamaica particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. The eastern parts of the island are the highest. Through the country

of Surrey and partly through Middlesex there runs the great Central Mountain Chain which trends generally east and west, the highest point being Blue Mountain Peak which attains an altitude of 7,388 ft. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies and is rather more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the Central Range subordinate ridges or spurs run both to the north and south coasts of the island; these ridges in their turn are the parents of other smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method; and they again throw off other ridges, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with their intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams give the derivation of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name of "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of these streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. In Jamaica there are many mineral springs, some of them possessing valuable qualities for the cure of various diseases and infirmities of the body. The two principal are the spring at Bath in the Parish of St. Thomas and the spring at Milk River in the Parish of Clarendon. Both these springs possess radio-active properties, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several good harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, which is considered one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of about 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

7. The following are Dependencies of Jamaica, namely:—

The Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands; also the Pedro and Morant Cays.

HISTORICAL.

8. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered.) The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

9. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596, and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years, when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell, under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trilling resistance, on the 11th May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaners, who made Port Royal their headquarters and store-house. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town) became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections, as well as wars with the maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants

of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 323,827 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received 6,161,927*l.* of the 20,000,000*l.* granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

10. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of 150,000*l.* was voted by Parliament, and a loan of 800,000*l.*, chiefly in aid of re-building, was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

11. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which, after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1866, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 30 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies, and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, in 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that, by a change in the constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

12. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

13. A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1886, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

14. By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote); five *ex-officio* members, viz., the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected

as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding general election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

15. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, if any, the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

16. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. The revised lists showed that there was one elector to every 25 persons in the island. At the election held in 1920, the number of voters on the list was 42,267. There were five contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 3,858.

Local Administration.

17. There is a Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council, and Corporate Officers. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (population in 1921, 62,707), Port Royal (population 1,004), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population 6,272), Montego Bay (population 6,580), Falmouth (population 2,136), Port Maria (population 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population 3,442.)

18. The parish is the unit of local government, and each parish has its own parochial institutions, viz.: poor houses, etc., managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1923 was 8,012, being at the rate of 8.9 per thousand of population. The several direct taxes levied on property, motor cars, horses, carriages, etc., etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected, with the exception of a few items which go to the credit of the general revenue of the Colony.

Judicial.

19. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature together with Resident Magistrate Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

20. Jamaica is purely an agricultural country and its prosperity is therefore greatly affected by weather disturbances, such as hurricanes, flood rains, droughts, etc. The year 1924 was a period of depression for the Colony. It opened with the island still in the grip of a drought which had lasted practically without a break for two years. Almost all the Colony's agricultural products were in consequence adversely affected, and bananas in addition suffered from bad markets, resulting in low prices. The effect of these conditions was soon reflected in the revenue, which began to

fall with alarming rapidity. So serious did the situation become that in August the Acting Governor found it necessary to appoint an Advisory Financial Committee to make recommendations with a view to curtailing expenditure and if possible increasing revenue. In the latter half of the year the financial position was still further aggravated by the occurrence of heavy flood rains which caused serious damage to roads and railways. It is, however, an ill wind that blows no good and, generally speaking, a feeling of optimism prevailed in the Island at the close of 1924. For another year the Island had been spared a hurricane, the drought had broken and there was a prospect of good crops in 1925. Even the financial strain incurred by expenditure on repairing flood damage, though serious, was considerably alleviated owing to the existence of the 'Calamities Insurance Fund' which had been accumulated as a reserve against such a contingency.

21. Mr. H. E. Dale, C.B., the Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to advise the Government on financial matters, who had arrived in the Colony towards the close of 1923, completed his investigations in January. His report was finished at the end of May and published shortly afterwards. The Report is a valuable contribution to the subject and is proving of material assistance to the Administration.

22. In January and February an Inter-Colonial West Indian Conference on agricultural questions assembled at Kingston, under the Presidency of Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies. The following Institutions were represented at the conference:—

- The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- The Imperial Bureau of Mycology
- The Imperial Bureau of Entomology
- The West India Committee
- The British Empire Sugar Research Association
- The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture

and also the Colonies named below:—

- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Bermuda
- British Honduras
- British Guiana
- Grenada
- The Leeward Islands
- Trinidad
- The Windward Islands, and
- Jamaica.

Many interesting discussions took place, the results of which are embodied in the official report on the Conference.

23. During the month of June, work on the reconstruction of the streets of Kingston, for which a loan not exceeding £400,000 was authorized by Law 25 of 1923, was commenced. This, unfortunately, was made the occasion of a serious labour disturbance in the west of Kingston. Certain labourers having demanded to be paid at a higher rate than that offered by the Corporation, endeavoured to prevent others who were willing to accept that rate from working. Hooligans joined the malcontents, and the unfortunate upshot was a riot in which the temporary office erected in connection with the work was

attacked, the interior wrecked, and certain other Government and Municipal property was destroyed. Eventually, orders were given to the Police to fire on the rioters, and several charges were made to clear the streets. As a result, three persons were killed and several wounded. This disturbance reacted upon the wharf labourers at Port Antonio, and a small riot occurred at that place on the 17th June, as the result of a strike amongst men engaged in loading fruit at the Railway pier. In this case also resort was had to the use of firearms, though to a less extent than in the case of the Kingston riot. No loss of life ensued.

24. On the 17th June, 1921, Governor Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., left the Island on leave of absence prior to retirement. Brevet-Colonel (now Sir Herbert) Bryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., assumed the administration of the Government pending the arrival of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., who was appointed to succeed Sir Leslie Probyn as Governor. Sir Samuel Wilson arrived in the Colony on the 30th September, 1924.

25. During the month of July, an International Conference on Health Problems in Tropical Countries was held in Kingston under the auspices of the Medical Department of the United Fruit Company. The Conference opened on the 23rd July under the Presidency of Dr. W. E. Deeks, the General Manager of the Company's Medical Department, and was attended by many prominent men of the Medical Profession from all parts of the world, including Lt.-Col. Sir Leonard Rogers, C.I.E.; Sir Thomas Oliver, Kt., Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bt., C.M.G., Dr. A. Castellani and Dr. F. G. Banting, the discoverer of "Insulin." Many interesting and instructive papers were read at meetings of the Conference.

26. The Special Service Squadron, consisting of H.M.S. "Hood," H.M.S. "Repulse," and H.M.A.S. "Adelaide," under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field, K.C.B., C.M.G., paid a visit to the Colony, arriving on the 26th July and staying until the 30th of that month. The vessels were visited by large numbers of all classes of the community, and a ceremonial march by the men of the Squadron through some of the principal streets of Kingston made a deep and lasting impression on all who witnessed it.

27. During the latter part of the year, the island was visited by Mr. D. H. Ross, Special Travelling Commissioner of the Government of Canada. This visit preceded a visit to the Colony in the early part of 1925 by Mr. Hance J. Logan, M.P., who was appointed by the Government of Canada to discuss trade and transportation matters with the several B.W.I. Colonies as a preliminary to the holding of a Canada-West Indies Conference to revise the existing Trade Agreement between the Dominion and those Colonies.

28. During the course of the year, arrangements were made for the appointment of an officer to be attached to the staff of the British Legation in Cuba to look after the interests of Jamaicans in that republic. For many years past complaints regarding the treatment of Jamaicans in Cuba have been numerous, and great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining redress for those alleged to have been ill-treated, or in otherwise settling matters in complaint in an effort to rectify the unsatisfactory state of things, an officer selected by the Government of Jamaica was appointed, and attached to the British Legation (under the title of Secretary for Immigration) whose duty it would be to look after the interests of Jamaicans in that country.

The officer in question (Mr. H. J. Dignum) took up his duties in January, 1925. It is highly satisfactory to record that the Cuban Government co-operated with the British Legation in connection with the matter, and specially deputed a Cuban Officer to accompany Mr. Dignum on his preliminary tour of investigation. As far as can be judged at the time of writing, the arrangement is working to the benefit of all concerned.

29. The question of the revision of the Constitution continued to occupy the attention of local politicians. An incident of political interest which occurred during the year was the exercise by the Governor of the over-riding power conferred by Clause 8 of the Order in Council of 3rd May, 1895, which defined the Constitution of the Legislative Council. During discussion of the Estimates in the Legislative Council, an Elected Member moved for the deletion from the Estimates of the item providing the salary of the Director of the Railway, and more than nine of the Elected Members present voted in favour of the motion. Ordinarily, this would have carried the motion, as under the Clause in question the votes of the Nominated and Official Members would, in such circumstances, not have been taken. The Governor, however, declared the matter to be of paramount importance to the public interest and the votes of the Nominated and Official Members were accordingly taken, with the result that the motion was defeated. A protest was sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Elected Members; but the action of the Governor was upheld.

30. During the month of March a Mission was held throughout the island by the Church of England in connection with the celebration of the centenary of the founding of the Diocese of Jamaica. Several prominent clergymen from the United Kingdom took part in the Mission.

31. A great impetus to sport was given by the visit to the island in February of a Lawn Tennis Team from the United States of America which included as one of its members Mr. Vincent Richards of international fame. The visit of the team did a great deal to improve the standard of local tennis. There is reason to hope that similar tournaments in which teams from the United States of America and possibly the United Kingdom will take part, will be arranged each year in future. In point of fact such a tournament has taken place in 1925, in which a team from the United States (including Mr. V. Richards and Mr. T. Harada, the latter a prominent Japanese player) took part.

32. The Colony took part in the British Empire Exhibition held during the year at Wembley. The exhibit was placed under the charge of Mr. W. Cradwick, and so far as can be judged, the Jamaica Court made a favourable impression upon all who visited it. Prominent features of the Court were the Coffee Stall, at which real Blue Mountain coffee, for which the island is famous, was made and sold; and the Punch Bar, at which Jamaica "Planter's Punch" was in great demand.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

33. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The Departures in 1922 were 6,733; in 1923, 7,778, and in 1924, 7,284. The arrivals in 1922 were 6,931; in 1923, 5,029; and in 1924, 5,247.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

34. Increased interest was taken during the year in Public Health generally throughout the Colony. Full-time Medical Officers of Health

were appointed for the parishes of Clarendon and St. Andrew, and the Junior Sanitary Medical Officer, who was appointed to supervise the sanitary work in the western parishes, took up his duties.

35. The International Health Board (Rockefeller Foundation) continued their campaign of Hookworm eradication in the Island and two units operated in the parish of St. Mary during the year.

36. Alastrim continued to exist in the Island, but the incidence of the disease decreased during the year to such an extent that the number of cases reported during the last quarter was the smallest since the outbreak started.

37. The advent of rains in the latter part of the year caused localised epidemics of malaria.

VITAL STATISTICS.

38. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1924 was 904,405, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at 31st December, 1923, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom deaths and departures during the year ended 31st December, 1924.

39. The number of marriages registered during 1924, was 3,168, the rate being 3.5 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 3.8 for 1923. During the same period 33,132 births were registered of which 16,688 were boys and 16,444 were girls. The birth rate works out at 36.8 per 1,000 as against 38.2 during 1923.

40. The number of deaths registered was 19,592, of which 9,616 were males and 9,976 females, the death rate being 21.7 per 1,000. The rate for 1923 was 22.7. During 1924, 6,963 or 35.5 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age; and of these 5,345 or 27.3 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1923 were 36.0 per cent. and 28.8 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 16.1 per cent. as compared with 17.1 in 1923. The principal causes of deaths per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston, were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 10.3; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the newborn, 11.6; Phthisis, 10.7; Enteric Fever, 5.8; Pneumonia, 5.8; Heart Disease, 6.7; Chronic Bright's Disease, 4.1; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Apoplexy, 3.1.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

41. The trade of the Colony in 1924 did not reach the level of that of the previous year so far as the values of the Imports and Exports are concerned; but in both instances a marked advance was made by British Trade. The value of Imports (exclusive of Parcels Post Goods) was £4,827,074; as against £5,281,078 in 1923, or a decrease of £454,004. This decrease is traced mainly to Class I, Food, Drink and Tobacco (£120,869), and Class III, Manufactured Articles (£278,433). Under Class I, it is interesting to note that, as was predicted, Canada has claimed a larger share in the supply of Foodstuffs; there being barely 1% difference between the United States and the Dominion. The percentages under this division are as follows:—United Kingdom 11.1%; United States of America, 35.5%; Canada 34.6%; Other Countries 18.8%.

Under Class III, the United Kingdom has at last forged ahead and now holds the premier position, the percentages being: United Kingdom, 49.4%; United States of America 38.4%; Canada 4.5%; Other Countries 7.7%. There can be no doubt that the Preferential Tariff is slowly, but surely, taking effect and is mainly responsible for this transfer of trade.

42. Only a few items of Imports showed appreciable increases. They were as follows:—

Articles Paying Specific Duties.

	Increase.
Salt	511,936 lbs.
Soap, Laundry	328,698 “
Sugar, Refined	380,333 “
Tobacco, Leaf	39,427 “

Articles Paying Advalorem Duty.

	£
Machinery, Other kinds ..	40,520
Cotton, Other Manufactures ..	10,054
Jams and Jellies	1,228

On the other hand large decreases took place under Corn (£2,185,435 lbs.); Fish, Dried Salted (3,490,976 lbs.); Rice (7,001,509 lbs.); and Lumber (2,755,435 ft.), as well as under Cotton Piece Goods (£143,516); Iron and Steel Manufactures (£41,299); Carriages and Parts (£33,594), and Hardware (£29,279).

43. The substantial preference afforded to British Cotton Piece Goods has turned the scale in their favour as the following proportions will show:—

1923, British 48%, Foreign 52%; or 4% in favour of Foreign.

1924, British 50.4%, Foreign 49.6%; or 0.8% in favour of British.

44. Import Duties realised the sum of £786,600 in the year 1924-25 as against £860,600 in 1923-24, or a decrease of £74,000 while the Package Tax yielded the sum of £58,200, as against £66,850 the previous year; or a decrease of £8,650. These decreases were mainly due to smaller importations of some of the principal commodities, such as Cotton Piece Goods, Flour, Fish, Rice and Cigarettes.

45. The value of the Exports for 1924 also fell short of that of the previous year, being £3,122,961, as against £4,263,238 in 1923; a decrease of £1,140,277. Almost the entire decline can be attributed to Bananas which show a decrease in value of £1,039,771. A glance at the quantities shows that decreases took place under Bananas; (483,129 stems); Coffee (25,159 cwt.); Coconuts (2,138,345 nuts) Oranges (24,797 boxes), and Sugar (56,974 cwt.); while increases are noticeable under Cocoa (16,085 cwt.); Rum (192,932 gallons); Leaf Tobacco (14,284 lbs.), and Logwood (3,513 tons).

46. The distribution of the Exports was as follows:— United Kingdom, 25.2%; United States of America, 43.7%; Canada, 19.2%; Other Countries 11.9%. While the United States still holds the first position owing to her importation of Bananas, yet it is worth noting that during the last decade the percentage of Exports both to the United Kingdom and to Canada show very fair increases, viz.: 7.1% and 12% respectively.

47. The Colony's eleven staple products are valued at £2,626,322, or 84% of the total, and were divided as follows:—

Bananas (£1,225,345); Coffee (£225,449); Cocoa (£82,022); Coco-nuts (£132,073); Ginger (£93,823); Logwood (£73,516); Oranges (£39,362); Pimento (£80,656); Rum (£121,561); Sugar (£497,723); and Cigars, £54,702).

To these may be added Logwood Extract which was manufactured in and exported from the Colony to the value of £200,436.

48. Taking a general view, it may be said that of the total exports 46.6% were taken by British Countries and 53.4% by Foreign. Drought and low prices were the main factors which worked against the Colony in 1924; but, so far, the weather this year has been helpful to cultivation and it is hoped that improved prices may be obtainable.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

49. The following statement shows totals of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.

1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
£	£	£	£	£
2,347,362	1,926,791	2,057,412	2,061,202	1,922,963

Expenditure.

1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
£	£	£	£	£
2,332,635	2,253,502	1,949,034	2,074,271	2,022,746

The total expenditure during the year 1924-25 was £99,783 more than the total revenue.

50. The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1925, were £1,188,469 and £1,175,354 respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £13,115.

51. The amount of public debt outstanding at 31st March, 1925, was £4,445,194. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of such debt amounted to £1,708,700. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, it will be seen that the difference (£2,736,494) exceeds by only £767,897 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1925-26). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

52. For the purposes of comparison, it may be interesting and instructive to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the National Debt of the United Kingdom and that of the Island of Jamaica in 1924.

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,707,537,545	160.5
Jamaica ..	894,000	Public Debt. 4,582,207	5.1

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1924, viz.:—£1,704,633, be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount *per capita* is £3 4s. 0d. The year 1923-1924 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1924-25 are not available locally.

53. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounts to £214,420: this fund is separate and apart from the Sinking Funds for the amortisation of the Public Debt.

TAXATION.

54. The following Laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

Law 2 of 1924—"A Law to continue various Expiring Laws." This Law continued in force, from the 1st April, 1924, to the 31st March, 1925, the following Laws:—

- (1) The Post Office (War Tax) Law 1919 (Law 7 of 1919).
- (2) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919 (Law 9 of 1919).
- (3) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law 1920 (Law 9 of 1920).

Law 3 of 1924—"A Law to Amend the Laws relating to Duties on Imports." This Law provides for the drawback of the duties paid on goods which are exported as "ships stores." and makes two minor amendments to the 1st and 4th Schedules respectively of Law 2 of 1922.

Law 9 of 1924—"A Law to amend a Law entitled "The Property Tax Law, 1903" (Law 15 of 1903)." This Law provides that when the same person is in possession of more than one lot of property in the same parish, one of which consists of land with a house, such separate properties, up to and not exceeding forty pounds gross value, may be taken together and reckoned as one property.

Law 21 of 1924—"A Law to amend a Law to impose a duty on Entertainments to which the Public are admitted on payment."

The Law widened the range of the tax so as to embrace shooting competitions and "pari-mutuel."

CURRENCY.

55. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5, of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1924, to the extent of £78,574 5s. 0d. in denominations of 2/6, 5/ and 10/.

2/6 Notes.			5/ Notes.			10/ Notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
192	15	0	31,565	10	0	46,816	0	0	78,574	5	0

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

56. Below is a table showing the value of the Imports and Exports during the past 40 years at intervals of 10 years:—

	1. 10. 1883 to 30. 9. 1884	1. 4. 1894 to 31. 3. 1895.	1. 4. 1904 to 31. 3. 1905.	1. 1. 1914 to 31. 12. 1914	1. 1. 24 to 31. 12. 24
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports ..	1,483,989	1,921,421	1,843,180	2,904,533	3,122,961
Value of Imports ..	1,487,832	2,288,945	1,941,937	2,565,820	4,827,074

Those for the year 1924 may be further classified as under:—

Countries of Origin and Destination.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom ..	1,437,563	787,773
United States of America ..	1,955,867	1,365,987
Canada ..	794,856	598,617
All Other Countries ..	638,788	370,584
Total	£4,827,074	£3,122,961

In considering these figures due allowance should be made for the great advance in cost (market value) of all commodities during the last decade.

57. It will be seen that the value of the Exports has increased in forty years by 111%, while the value of the Imports has increased by 225%. Both in the Export and Import Trade, British commodities are steadily gaining ground. In the case of the latter, the existence of the Preferential Tariff has weighed the scale on the right side and no doubt will continue to attain the object for which it was instituted. While hope is placed on the possibility of closer commercial relations with Canada and the Mother Country and better shipping facilities. These figures disclose an unsatisfactory situation, however, in that the Imports exceeded the Exports by the large sum of £1,704,113. The expected improvement in commercial relations and increased shipping facilities with the United Kingdom and Canada should, if realized, tend to reduce this adverse trade balance.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

58. The drought of the previous two years extended into the Summer of 1924 with disastrous results to many agricultural enterprises. Fortunately the seasons changed during the last half of the year and plan-

tiful rains again fell so as to place all branches of agriculture in a favourable position for the following year. Expressed as a rainfall average for the whole island this may be stated as follows:—

For the first half of the year only 19.56 inches of rain fell as against an average for 50 years of 31.91 inches; for the whole year, however, the average rainfall for the island was 79.28 inches or nearly 3 inches in excess of the 50-year average of 76.46 inches.

59. Industrially the year was a poor one for Jamaica. The chief staple, bananas, suffered from unfavourable seasons and bad markets. This may be demonstrated by the records of the banana crop of 1924, which were slightly under 12 million stems in number, and £1,225,000 in value, or a reduction of 483,000 stems and of £1,040,000 in value as compared with the previous year. The effect of a loss of 25 per cent. in the value of the Exports has naturally reacted on trade and, finally, on the Revenue.

60. The brisk competition that enabled Jamaica to sell its drought-stricken fruit in 1923 at very good prices, collapsed with the competition of large crops from Central America in 1924; prices fell; competition dwindled, and a severe blow was dealt to the industry. For the coming year the prospects of the banana crop are excellent and better prices are alone required to place the trade of Jamaica on a favourable basis.

61. The Panama Disease of Bananas increased during the year, the total number of diseased plants recorded being 6,698 as against 4,007 for 1923. About 75 per cent. of the incidence of this disease was in the parish of Portland. The disease occurred in districts previously infected and is gradually increasing in those districts despite the strict control which is exercised.

62. The Sugar Crop suffered greatly from the drought, the Exports for 1924 being slightly under 23,000 tons, valued at about half a million pounds sterling, as against 26,000 tons valued at £675,000 in the previous year. Rum, however, again became saleable at good prices, and an increase in quantity (nearly 200,000 gallons) and in value (£70,000), was recorded for the rum exported in 1924 as against that for the previous year. The continuation of the State Aid to the Estates was effective in tiding over this difficult year for the sugar planters who are now faced with severe competition in the sugar markets of the world from the recent increase in sugar production. It is, however, an advantage to have recovered the favourable trade for Jamaica rums both of the "Home Trade" and "high-flavoured" qualities.

63. The campaign against Mosaic Disease was continued by the Superintendent of Agriculture with a staff of three Inspectors. Good progress was made in the parish of Trelawny and there are many estates now where Mosaic Disease has been reduced to sporadic cases. The position in Westmoreland became quite serious after the May rains; but subsequently a great improvement took place and where the planters have followed up the work of "roguing," the disease is now under control. The "Uba" cane has proved of great service and has enabled several estates to place their cultivations on a greatly improved basis. The results from the factories have shown that the "Uba" offers no serious difficulties in manufacture.

64. The Department of Agriculture established a record by the distribution of 937,489 cane tops and cuttings to the public; or more than twice the number for the previous year. The outstanding new varieties of Sugar Cane are the "Uba" and the Barbados Seedling BH (10) 12.

65. The Exports of Coconuts and Copra indicated a reduction of 6,400,000 nuts over the production of the previous year. Owing to more favourable prices for both coconuts and copra the value of coconut products in 1924 was almost the same as in 1923. There was no serious trouble with coconut diseases during the year.

66. The drought affected the Coffee crop and reduced it from 3,800 tons to 2,600 tons. Prices were very good however, and the value for 1924 was £225,000 as against £242,000 in 1923. The planting of coffee is being extended by small growers as a result of recent encouragement.

67. *Cacao* has done rather better than in 1923, the output being 59,000 hundredweights, as against 43,000 in the previous year, while the value rose from £60,000 (a very low record) to £82,000. At present cacao offers small encouragement to the growers, and planting has almost entirely ceased.

68. *Logwood* has remained steady at a moderate standard of price and production, the total value of logwood products being £274,000 as against £271,000 in 1923. This has been a useful assistance as a side-issue of many forms of agriculture and it is very satisfactory that this trade has emerged securely from the after-math of War and the competition of synthetic dyes.

69. *Pimento* with a reduced production of about 13 per cent. earned an increased price of about one-third over that realised for the previous crop, thereby confirming past experience that reduced crops of pimento by relieving over-production of this spice lead to a better market. Pimento Leaf Oil is being manufactured on a small commercial scale in Manchester and St. Ann.

70. *Hides* have doubled in value as compared with 1923. The embargo of the United States due to the existence of Foot and Mouth Disease in the island has now been raised and it has again been possible to send hides and leather from Jamaica to America.

71. The *Tobacco* trade has remained in a rather depressed condition. The Exports were less than in 1923. Cigarette tobacco from virginian seed has been produced in St. Andrew and the local cigarette trade appears to be calling for this type of leaf.

72. *Ginger*, owing to unfavourable seasons, showed a reduction in quantity and of nearly £20,000 in value. The demand, particularly for "No. 1 Ginger," is good and the small growers of ginger have been encouraged to greater efforts in its production.

73. *Annatto* showed a reduction of about 15 per cent, in quantity due to drought conditions. The price, however, was so good that this product brought nearly £28,000 as against £11,400 in the previous year. The demand for Annatto is strong at the present time and it would appear that the output could be doubled to advantage.

74. *Citrus Fruits*.—Exports of Grape Fruit increased by 25 per cent. as compared with 1923. Oranges, however, fell by nearly 20 per cent. This industry is at present in a most unsatisfactory condition. The Orange Oil business suffered from unfavourable seasons and exports showed a reduction of more than one-third in value and nearly one-half in quantity as compared with the previous year.

75. *Honey* has benefited by better prices, and a slightly smaller crop than that of 1923 fetched nearly £26,000. No serious diseases of bees have existed during the year.

76. *Tick Destruction*. During the year, 22 new dipping tanks were registered bringing the total number of dipping tanks in the island to 249. For the use of these tanks the Government Laboratory supplied

13 tons of Paranaph and $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons of Arsenite of Soda during the year. The estates were also kept provided with Standard Iodine and Chemicals for testing the dip. The recent drop in the price of Arsenic should enable the Department to sell Arsenite of Soda at a cheaper price when new stocks are ordered.

77. Further experiments at the Government Laboratory have shown that the local white sugar produced at Caymanas Estate could be successfully employed for making Condensed Milk. The product kept perfectly for over 6 months. The question of moving the small Condensed Milk Plant from the Government Laboratory to the Government Farm at "Grove Place" and of manufacturing there the Condensed Milk required by the Public Institutions is now under consideration.

78. The equipment of "Grove Place" has progressed during the year. A concrete Silo of 230 tons capacity, a Dairy Building with stanchions for 50 cows, a machine shop with a 20 H.P. Blackstone Oil Engine and a corn mill, a saw mill and silo filling equipment have been installed. A windmill has been erected to pump water from the well near the Railway line and this is arranged so as to supply the bull pens and various tanks with water. A long cattle trough fed from the large pond has been constructed and the pond itself has been fenced round so as to prevent fouling of the water by the stock. Nearly 200 tons of silage were made from Maize, Guinea Corn and Guinea Grass fodder. Elephant Grass is being extended and is a promising fodder material.

The deficit of nearly £900 on the operating account in its first year of operation (1921-1922), has been repaid and "Grove Place" has at last begun to make a contribution to General Revenue from its "Working Account."

79. The Hope Farm had a trying time for the first seven months of the year due to lack of rain. A good crop of Guinea Corn was eventually obtained and all four Silos have been filled. The average daily yield of milk in 1924 was 308 quarts, as against 314 in the previous year. A record of production, believed to be unequalled in the West Indies, was effected by the native heifer "Norbrook II" which gave 12,305 lbs. of milk and 455 lbs. of butter fat in 365 days. This animal was bred at Hope and is a composite blend of Zebu, Ayrshire and Holstein blood. This record was made in the open pasture on 2 milkings a day and indicates that in the Tropics it is possible to rival the milk yield of cows in temperate climates if the right blend of Indian and Northern blood is secured. The Tuberculin Tests at both Farms were without a positive reaction.

80. The Lititz Fibre Factory did not operate during the year. Expenses were reduced to a modest sum and it is now considered that the fields have grown so as to enable the factory to work at a moderate profit during the present year. The Sisal Industry is beginning to revive from the early troubles of the pioneers. The Portable Machine invented by Mr. Anderson of May Pen is proving successful, and will revolutionise the industry by enabling fibre to be manufactured from moderate areas of sisal. The Rope Factory is reported to be unable to supply the local demand for its product. The price of fibre has been good during the year and the industry appears to be a promising one for development on large areas in Jamaica where other crops can not be grown.

Contagious Diseases of Animals.

81. No cases of Foot and Mouth Disease or of Anthrax were recorded during the year. The quarantine against the Foot and Mouth Disease Epidemic in the western parishes which broke out in July 1922 was removed on September 4, 1924.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

82. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is, however, estimated to contain 2,692,480 acres, of which 2,413,123 acres have been alienated, leaving 279,357 un-alienated or in process of alienation, about 10,000 acres of which is morass land.

83. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (i.e., to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first, was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

84. The abolition of slavery in 1838 and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

85. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons without any legal or equitable title, and in this way upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold, and some still remain in possession of the Government.

86. During the year 1890 the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Co., one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give them one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government, who then purchased it for £18,435.

87. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 297 time-expired East Indian immigrants 3,300 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

88. The scheme for the sale of Crown Lands to small settlers, which

was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1923, 43,830 acres have been sold, and put in possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The most notable grant made during the past twelve months, is 114 acres to one purchaser for £80. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received title from the Government.

89. There are large numbers of prædial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased in certain localities to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. These prices were in existence long before the outbreak of war in 1914, the lands being for the most part in remote situations and difficult of access.

90. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island, little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889; and Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

91. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

92. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. We have it on the authority of Mr. Hooper that "it is an undoubted fact that the forests are becoming poorer and the area under hardwoods smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture, materially increased by the clearing of the land." Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 37 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and their efforts are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

93. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place here to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controllor" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

94. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known, because, in 1597 Pedro d'Aena, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some

Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians through Spanish cruelty, and epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

95. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century, but none of those efforts was, so far as is known, directed towards prospecting on the Crown lands, but on properties long since alienated from the Crown.

96. Although not connected with the Crown lands, it might be of some interest here to state that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon 60 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817, the highest price paid being £24 15s. 0d. per ton and the lowest £9 2s. 9d.; the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

97. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

98. During the year 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., Government Geologist, reported the discovery of the issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of Saint Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th January, 1925.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS.

99. Dr. C. A. Matley's engagement as Government Geologist expired on the 17th July, 1924, and he left the Colony on the 21st April, 1924, on three months' leave prior to retirement. Mr. G. M. Stockley, the Assistant Geologist, was appointed Government Geologist in Dr. Matley's stead. Unfortunately, however, the Legislative Council decided to discontinue the geological survey on the ground of economy and Mr. Stockley's engagement had also to be terminated. He left the Colony on the 8th September, 1924.

100. The following is a brief summary of the work undertaken during the year.

Hydrology of the Yallahs River.—This investigation was carried out with a view to discovering the nature of the conditions which govern the flow of the Yallahs River. It was made in connection with a suggestion that the water supply of Kingston should be increased by bringing water from the Yallahs River.

Hydrology of the Clarendon Plains.—This work was undertaken with the idea of providing water for irrigation by sinking wells. A Hydrographical map of the area was drawn up, based upon the data from 120 wells and upon a geological study of the whole region.

Water Supply of Northern St. Ann.—The parish of St. Ann has a limestone formation and is therefore liable to suffer greatly in times of drought. The object of this investigation was to assist in providing reliable water supplies in dry districts. The report of the Government Geologist indicated that the solution of the problem for the coastal and eastern portions of the parish lay in the direction of obtaining water from the Roaring River by means of hydraulic schemes for lifting water similar to that known as the Dernoch Scheme now being undertaken in the parish of Trelawny.

Dam site, North Hall, Clarendon.—This investigation was undertaken in connection with a scheme for utilising the waters of the Rio Minho River for irrigation purposes. The gaugings taken, however, indicated that the supply of water was inadequate for the purpose.

101. In addition to the above, the Geologist (Mr. Stockley) undertook the work of arranging and labelling Sawkins Geological Collection at the Institute of Jamaica. This collection, owing to various vicissitudes, had become an "heap of stones." When Mr. Stockley left the island the specimens had been classified, some explanatory cards being added.

FISHING.

102. No improvement has taken place in the fishing industry during the year and the supply of fresh fish is both precarious and expensive. As has been stated in previous reports the industry has never been organized—notwithstanding its great possibilities—but is in the hands of persons who barely make a living out of it. In the meantime thousands of pounds leave the Colony for cured fish which, if the native supply was as it should be, would be money kept at home.

MANUFACTURES.

103. The principal items of manufacture are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather and Log-wood Extract.

104. *Sugar.*—The Sugar Estates continue to labour somewhat under the effects of the unfortunate over-capitalization of 1919 and 1920. During the year under review a chronic condition of low prices prevailed and there was a decline in the demand, due no doubt to competition. In 1924 the Colony produced 34,334 tons, as against 39,049 the previous year; or a decrease of 4,715 tons. Of this 22,920 tons were exported in 1924, as against 25,768 in 1923, or a decrease of 2,848 tons. Drought still continued to affect the crops.

105. *Rum.*—Rum has shown marked signs of recovery during the past year both in output and in price. The output in 1924 was 8,242 puncheons as against 7,500 puncheons in 1923, or an increase of 742 puncheons. Of these, 7,304 puncheons were exported in 1924 as compared with 5,375 puncheons in 1923, or an increase of 1,929 puncheons. The price at the close of the year was 4/ per gallon F.O.B.

106. *Copra.*—There was a considerable falling off in this industry, the exports during 1924 totalling only 3,743,426 lbs. as against 5,207,094 in 1923. The raw product also showed a decrease of 2,138,345 nuts.

107. *Sisal*.—This is not progressing as rapidly as was expected, and there has been little or no improvement on the previous year's operations.

108. *Banana Figs*.—There being apparently a greater demand in the markets abroad for this commodity, the industry has extended somewhat, and in 1924, 11,730 packages were exported as against 3,608 in 1923.

109. *Orange Oil*.—This industry was on the decline during 1924 only about one-half the production of 1923 being attained.

110. *Cigars and Cigarettes*.—Cigars although showing a slight decrease in the quantity exported still contrived to maintain an appreciable position and the presence of a protective import duty operates against foreign competition. With Cigarettes, however, the imported article still holds first place though recently there has been a considerable decline in the quantities imported, with an increase of those locally manufactured.

111. *Leather*.—The tanneries at various centres of the Island continue to turn out a fair amount of sole and harness leather, some of which is exported.

112. *Matches*.—Some improvement has been made in the manufacture of local matches, but the foreign article still continues to prove a formidable competitor, a heavy import duty notwithstanding.

113. *Logwood Extract*.—This is an industry which is now taking its place among the chief staples of the Island after years of stagnation. In 1924, 17,038 packages, of a value of £200,436, were exported.

114. *Minor Industries*.—Of these may be mentioned Jippi Jappa Hats and Baskets, a fair number of which are exported.

WATER POWER.

115. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., for the purpose of operating the tramways and electric lighting of Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

116. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has been under consideration, and an investigation of many of the rivers in the Island has been made with this object in view. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

117. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some 1½ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

118. The Commercial Banks doing business in the Island are the Colonial Bank, The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

The value of the local notes of each bank outstanding at 31st December 1924, was as follows:—

The Colonial Bank	..	..	£77,850
The Bank of Nova Scotia	..	..	34,997
The Royal Bank of Canada	..	..	27,147
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	..	..	3,983

These Banks all have head offices (for the Island) in Kingston.

The Colonial Bank in addition to its Head Office in Kingston, has Sub-branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Golden Grove, Lucca, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Sav.-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has Sub-branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Sav.-la-Mar, and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has only two Sub-branches in addition to its Head Office at Kingston, namely, at Cross Roads and Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no Sub-branches.

119. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870 and is still in operation. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting Savings Branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial banks, namely, 3% per annum compounded half-yearly. The result of this was that in the year 1919 the deposits increased by 71% . There are now 67 branches and postal agencies throughout the Island.

120. Under Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica, (4) on deposit in Banks, and (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council. Under the provisions of this Law, funds have from time to time been provided for loans to Agricultural Loan Societies both for the ordinary purposes of such societies and also for the development of Land Settlement Schemes.

121. *Co-operative Loan Banks*.—There are 53 Co-operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g., for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools, and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

122. The following figures, referring to 36 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Total loans made to	31st December, 1924	..	£115,156
Repayments	do do	..	94,837
Balances outstanding	..	..	20,319

123. The Co-Operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st October, 1923, a sum of £37,440 share capital, in addition to £94,837 loan moneys repaid, with interest. These figures may be taken as an indication that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove a permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £55,774 has been loaned to eight banks under this head.

VI. LEGISLATION.

124. Forty-two Laws were passed during the year 1924 and a brief summary of the provisions of those which may be considered to be of general interest is given below:—

- (1) Law 4 of 1924 entitled "A Law to eliminate fractions of a penny from the Public and Parochial Accounts of the Colony."

The object of this Law is to eliminate fractions of a penny from the Public and Parochial Accounts of the Colony other than those of the Jamaica Government Railway. This is provided for as follows:—

(a) Where the fraction is less than one-half of a penny it is to be discarded.

(b) Where the fraction is more than one-half of a penny it is to be regarded as a penny and payment made accordingly.

(c) Where the fraction is exactly one-half of a penny it is to be discarded if the number of pence is an even number or zero, but is to be regarded as a penny if the number of pence is an uneven number.

- (2) Law 5 of 1924 entitled "A Law to repeal the Aliens (Missionary and Educational Work) Law 1917 (Law 24 of 1917)."

This Law repeals Law 14 of 1917, which provided for closer supervision than is now considered necessary in the case of Aliens who undertake Missionary and Educational Work.

- (3) Law 7 of 1924 entitled "A Law to repeal the Laws restricting the admission into this Colony of Former Enemy Aliens."

The object of this Law is to repeal the restrictions formerly imposed on Enemy Aliens during the War and sometime afterwards.

- (4) Law 8 of 1924 entitled "A Law to empower the Board of Management of the Lititz Fibre Factory and Plantation to make loans under the Agricultural Loans Law, 1887."

This Law facilitates and increases the operations of the Factory by providing that Loans may be made by the Board for such purposes, and to such amounts, as may be specified by the Legislative Council.

- (5) Law 9 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend the Law entitled "The Property Tax Law 1903 (Law 15 of 1903)".

The object of this Law is to provide that if the same person is in possession of more than one lot of property in the same parish, one of which consists of land and a house, such separate properties up to and not exceeding £40 gross value may be taken together and reckoned as one property for the purpose of the Property Tax Law, 1903.

- (6) Law 10 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend the Law entitled "The Parish Rates Law, 1903 (Law 16 of 1903)."

This Law adds a proviso to section 1 of the Principal Law to the same effect as that mentioned in the immediately preceding Law.

- (7) Law 14 of 1924 entitled "A Law to remove certain restrictions on the Assignment of Trade Marks under the Enemy Trade Marks (Vesting) Law, 1917, (Law 10 of 1917)."

The object of this Law is to remove any stipulations on the assignment of a Trade Mark by the Custodian of Enemy Property to an assignee, by reason that he is a person who was at any time a subject of a State at war with His Majesty.

- (8) Law 15 of 1924, entitled "A Law to amend the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Law, 1923, Law 3 of 1923), in respect of the qualifications of women."

This Law enables women to nominate candidates to vote at elections and to hold corporate offices under the Principal Law, on being qualified, as provided in the Law.

- (9) Law 16 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Law, 1923 (Law 15 of 1923)."

This Law provides for transmission to the Secretary of State of certified copies of Maintenance Orders made against any persons resident in England or Ireland. It substitutes a new definition of "Dependents" and adds a new section to the Principal Law under which the provisions of the Law may be extended to Maintenance Orders made in any British possession or territory in which reciprocal provisions have been enacted.

- (10) Law 18 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend Law 20 of 1906 "A Law to amend the Laws as to the Registration of Voters and the Elections Laws 1884."

This Law repeals the section of the Law which imposed a restriction on illiterate voters being able to vote. Illiterate voters may now vote in accordance with the Law regulating the voting of such voters.

- (11) Law 19 of 1924 entitled "A Law to Amend a Law entitled "The Parochial Loans Law, 1903, (Law 20 of 1903)."

The object of this Law is to provide that the approval of the Secretary of State need only be obtained when a proposed loan to a Parochial Board exceeds £10,000; or when a loan would cause the total amount of loans authorised under the Law in any year to exceed £25,000.

- (12) Law 20 of 1924 entitled "A Law for Continuing Temporary Aid for the Preservation of the Sugar Industry of the Island, and to enable a Loan to be raised and used for the purpose."

The object of this Law is to continue for a further period of one year aid for the preservation of the Sugar Industry of the Island and to raise a loan for the purpose.

- (13) Law 26 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend Law 25 of 1912, a Law to provide for the granting of Compassionate Allowances to certain Parochial Officers."

The chief object of the Law is to provide that any person who has served continuously in both the Public and Parochial Service for a period of fifteen years or upwards shall be deemed a Parochial Officer eligible for retiring allowances or gratuity.

- (14) Law 27 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend the Laws relating to Solicitors."

The main objects of this Law are to provide for the Solicitors Committee granting leave of absence to a member thereof, and that the Judges of the Supreme Court may appoint any person so qualified to act as a member during such leave of absence. Provision is also made to enable a member to resign his office by letter delivered to the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

- (15) Law 31 of 1924 entitled "A Law to give effect to a Scheme for Grants in Aid to Secondary Schools."

The object of this Law is to give force and effect of Law to a scheme for Grants in aid of Secondary Schools which was adopted by the Legislative Council on the 28th May, 1920.

- (16) Law 39 of 1924 entitled "A Law to amend a Law to make provision for the preparation and publication of a New and Revised Edition of the Laws of this Island."

The object of this Law is to make two small amendments in the Principal Law, mainly as the Revised Edition is being prepared in a series of chapters, and to give the term "Law" to each subject dealt with in each chapter, and obviate the difficulty that would be caused by the use of two terms, viz., "Law" and "Act."

- (17) Law 40 of 1924 entitled "A Law to regulate the importation, exportation, manufacture, sale and use of opium and other dangerous drugs."

This is a Consolidating as well as an Amending Law. It consolidates the Law on the subject, and enacts provisions specially design to stop unlawful traffic in Opium.

- (18) Law 41 of 1924 entitled "a Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the emigration of persons to certain foreign countries."

The objects of this Law are: (1) To consolidate the provisions of seven Laws into one Law and to repeal the said seven Laws, and (2) to insert provisions to provide against the unlawful receipt of moneys by persons pretending to be Shipping Agents, who have defrauded persons from time to time of money on pretence of obtaining passages for them.

- (19) Law 42 of 1924 entitled "A Law to Consolidate the Gunpowder and Firearms Laws."

The objects of this Law are: (1) To consolidate into one Law the provisions of six laws on the subject and to repeal those six laws, and (2) To make provisions by law for adequately punishing persons who use and carry firearms without being licensed so to do.

VII.—EDUCATION.

• ELEMENTARY.

125. Drought conditions continued generally for the first nine months of the year during which the attendance at the public elementary schools showed some further increase, but flood rains later caused a great decrease with the result that the average attendance for the year, though still high, was below the record figures for 1923, the average number on the registers being 113,293 as compared with 114,592 in 1923, and the average attendance 68,408 as compared with 69,368 in 1923.

126. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions, and supervision, three prominent features of the new system, continued to show some improvement though there is still room for much more.

127. Courses of instruction for teachers in school garden work and manual training were suspended during the year owing to the necessity for strict economy.

128. The sum of £2,000 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped, the total of applications amounting to four times that sum.

129. The total departmental expenditure for the year was £151,903 as compared with £147,162 in 1923.

SECONDARY.

130. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, and some unendowed schools, were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the Government Grants-in-aid. The number of Secondary Schools receiving grants remained at 16. The results of the public examinations continued to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

131. During the year a Law to provide for Pensions and Gratuities to Teachers in Secondary Schools was passed by the Legislative Council, as was also a Law to give effect to the rules for grants-in-aid to Secondary Schools.

132. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, the Intermediate Examination in Arts, and the final in Arts and Divinity.

TECHNICAL.

133. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston continued to do good work and provision was made for an increase in the number of Trade Scholarships.

134. The Manual Training Classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were, in eight cases, in operation during the year. The classes attached to two schools were temporarily closed.

135. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church, has made an excellent start and is evidently serving a long felt need.

INDUSTRIAL.

136. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continued to do good work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

RAINFALL.

137. The Mean Island Rainfall of the four divisions of Jamaica for the year 1924 was 79.28 inches, or about 4 per cent. above the

50-year average of 76.46 ins. For the Island, generally, the year commenced with very deficient rainfall, when from January to June, inclusive, only two-thirds of the average was recorded. This was however, compensated for during the latter half of the year, when the total gave about 50 per cent above the normal. The May "Season" shewed a deficiency, for only two-thirds of the average fell, but the October "Season" was well above the average. The rainfall for Kingston was 39.19 ins., and the average 33.59 ins.

TEMPERATURE.

138. At Kingston the mean temperature for the twelve months was 79.1 degrees, which is 0.4 deg. higher than the 33-year average of 78.7 degrees. The highest maximum for the year was 93.3 degrees, occurring in the month of May and in June; and the lowest minimum was 61.1 degrees in March.

HUMIDITY.

139. The mean humidity for Kingston, derived from the 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. observations, was 73 per cent., as against the 33-year average of 77 per cent. This deficiency is attributable to the small rainfall during the early months of the year.

WEATHER DISTURBANCES.

140. About the 4th and 5th February a weather disturbance of small intensity developed to the west of Negril Point, and moved north-westerly. On the 20th March another depression formed in the same direction but passed away, possibly in a N.W. track. Evidence was shewn on 1st August of a disturbance appearing between Swan Island and British Honduras, but it did not appear to develop. On 18th August a disturbance moved from the vicinity of Dominica in a West-north-westerly direction. Then on the 28th August a disturbance developed between Dominica and Antigua, moving North-westerly, and occasioned great loss of life and damage to property in the Leeward and Virgin Islands. On 14th October a storm developed in the vicinity of Swan Island, and moved towards western Cuba. Then on the 7th and 8th November a disturbance developed to the north of Jamaica, and proceeded on a track through eastern Cuba, occasioning flood rains in Jamaica, especially in the eastern parishes.

HAILSTORMS.

141. Hail fell at Kempshot, in the parish of St. James, on 14th July during a thunderstorm. Also at Santa Cruz, in the parish of St. Elizabeth, on 30th July, accompanied by rain and high wind.

EARTHQUAKES.

142. A few very slight shocks were felt at several places in the Island in the months of March, June, July, August, September, October and November.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAY.

143. The Jamaica Government Railway traverses the Island of Jamaica by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay.

(b) Spanish Town to Port Antonio.

In both cases, from the south to the north side of the Island, the line runs across the high mountains which form the backbone of the Island. In addition, there are also two branches running into the interior of the Island, viz.: from May Pen to Chapelton off the Montego Bay Line; and from Bog Walk to Ewarton off the other main line Spanish Town to Port Antonio. The total length of the Railway track is 200 miles. The gauge is standard, 4 feet 8½ inches. The ruling gradient is 1 in 30 combined with 5 chain curves.

144. The Revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1924, was £268,914, and the expenditure £237,312. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment.

145. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 218,621 tons, as compared with 247,879 tons for the year 1923; the number of passengers carried in 1924 was 455,270, against 475,391 in 1923.

146. The construction of the extension from Chapelton to Frankfield was continued and the work will, it is expected be completed by the middle of March, 1925. The work of making additional provision in the Locomotive Shops at Kingston for the maintenance of engines and rolling stock was completed in 1924.

147. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of 10 members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government when necessary in matters of policy.

SHIPPING.

148. The following Summary shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1920 entered	1307	Vessels of	1,778,256	tons
1921 “	1,339	“	1,753,262	“
1922 “	1,365	“	1,920,114	“
1923 “	1,323	“	2,011,500	“
1924 “	1,306	“	2,056,496	“
1920 cleared	1,285	“	1,755,532	“
1921 “	1,271	“	1,719,496	“
1922 “	1,340	“	1,927,183	“
1923 “	1,335	“	2,005,711	“
1924 “	1,299	“	2,054,100	“

149. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony —

British—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line. Elders & Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford & Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Webster Steamship Line, and The Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co. (the two last named companies being registered in Jamaica.)

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., and the Columbian Steamship Co.

Dutch—The Royal Netherlands West Indies Co.

German—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Deutsche Dampschiffahrts Gesellschaft Kosmor Line.

Cuban—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

Summarized, there are British, 8; U.S.A., 3; Dutch, 1; German, 2; Cuban, 1; making a total of 15 Steamship Lines. Compared with the previous year this is an increase of 1 British and a decrease of 1 Foreign.

150. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year under review.

ROADS.

151. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes: (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,264 miles, which are maintained from the General Revenue of the Colony; and (b) Parochial Roads, amounting to 4,366 miles, of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles which may be described as cart or bridle roads. The latter classes of roads are maintained by the Parochial Boards from funds derived from local rates.

152. During the Calendar year 1924, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £98 per mile, including cost of restoring Flood Damages.

153. With few exceptions, these roads were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing motor traffic requirements of the present day. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are being gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety. Up to the end of the year under review about 35 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

CANALS.

154. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

IRRIGATION.

155. There is a system of irrigation canals which convey water from the Rio Cobre River to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards per hour and is, approximately, 6 miles long; subsidiary channels, of which there is a total length of 42 miles, convey the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which about 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

156. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey the water by gravity to irrigate several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry 10,000 cubic yards per hour.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE AND AERIAL SERVICES.

157. The Government Island Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of

the Calendar year 1923, there were 1,097½ miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 62 Telegraph and 88 Telephone Offices. No further extensions of lines or opening of new offices were authorized during the year.

158. The charge for telegrams at the inception of the telegraph system was one shilling for the first 20 words, and threepence for every additional five words, addresses of sender and receiver not being included.

159. In 1911, the popular sixpenny telegram was introduced and remained effective until 1918, when, due to war conditions, the rate was increased to ninepence for the first twelve words or under, and half-penny for each additional word, including the address, at which it still remains.

160. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assists considerably in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Island Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Jamaica Government Railway.

161. The number of ordinary and official messages signalled in 1922 was 351,150, the revenue collected was £18,063. In 1923 the messages numbered 326,353, and the receipts totalled £18,503. In 1924 the messages numbered 316,735; the receipts totalled £17,222.

162. There are two Wireless Stations in the Island. One is situated at Christiana and was established by the Royal Navy during the late war. This station does not now accept traffic for or from any point. The other station is situated in Kingston and is controlled and operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government license. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. Numerous wireless receiving stations have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island, by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and nearby Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station at present exists in the Island.

163. There is at present no Aerial Service in connection with this Colony.

164. Efficient and speedy communication with all parts of the outside world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

165. The cable of the former company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines Inland, and Westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West India Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

166. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting Companies who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States

of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

167. No Public Works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out during the year under review. Work was, however, started upon the construction of a dam at Hermitage in the hills to the north of Kingston in connection with a scheme for the improvement of the water supply of Kingston. Work was also started on the reconstruction of the streets of Kingston for which provision was made by Laws 25 and 36 of 1923.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

168. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price.	Where obtainable.
	s. d.	
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually) ..	8 0	Edward Stanford, 12, 13, & 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924 ..	2 0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise ..	1 0	Superintendent of the Govern- ment Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1 0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919 ..	2 6	ditto
Notes on the Geology of Jamaica,, 1913, by Maxwell Hall ..	1 0	ditto
Education Code, 1921 ..	1 0	ditto
Bibliographia Jamaicensis, 1902 ..	0 6	Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, W.C.
Supplement to Biblio- graphia Jamaicensis, 1908 ..	0 3	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923) ..	2 0	Superintendent of the Govern- ment Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Proceedings of the Ninth West Indian Agricultu- ral Conference (1925) ..	2 6	ditto

CHAS. W. DOORLY,
Acting Colonial Secretary,

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica,
31st July, 1925.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes for the Colonial Office the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1923-24, No. 1252	1s. 6d.	JAMAICA, 1923, No. 1218	1s. 3d.
BAHAMAS, 1924, No. 1241	6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1923, No. 1227	1s.
BARBADOS, 1924-25, No. 1274	9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1232 ..	1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1924, No. 1244	9d.	MAURITIUS, 1923, No. 1234	1s. 3d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1269	9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 ..	6d.
BERMUDA, 1923, No. 1247	6d.	NIGERIA, 1924, No. 1245	1s.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1924, No. 1270 ..	9d.	NYASALAND, 1924, No. 1257 ..	6d.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1923, No. 1215	9d.	ST. HELENA, 1924, No. 1251 ..	6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1922-23, No. 1189 ..	3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1924, No. 1263	6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1924, No. 1250 ..	1s.	ST. VINCENT, 1924, No. 1267	6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1924, No. 1262	6d.	SEYCHELLES, 1924, No. 1272	3d.
CEYLON, 1923, No. 1243	5s.	SIERRA LEONE, 1924, No. 1275 ..	1s. 3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT for the period April 1st, 1914, to March 31st, 1923, No. 1230	2s. 6d.	SOMALILAND, 1924, No. 1271	6d.
CYPRUS, 1924, No. 1253	1s. 9d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1924, No. 1264	2s.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1923, No. 1242 ..	9d.	SWAZILAND, 1924, No. 1261	6d.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1924, No. 1256	1s. 6d.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1923-24, No. 1237	3d.
FIJI, 1924, No. 1259	1s. 3d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1924, No. 1260 ..	1s. 6d.
GAMBIA, 1924, No. 1249	6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1924, No. 1258	6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1924, No. 1266	6d.	UGANDA, 1923, No. 1220	6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246	6d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1924, No. 1265	6s.
GOLD COAST, 1923-24, No. 1255	2s. 3d.	WEI HAI WEI, 1924, No. 1248	6d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES, 1923-24, No. 1229	9d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1924, No. 1254	6d.
GRENADA, 1924, No. 1263	6d.		
HONGKONG, 1923, No. 1228	1s. 6d.		

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1924 (Colonial, No. 16)	2s. 9d.
IRAQ, April 1923-Dec. 1924 (Colonial, No. 13)	7s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1924 (Colonial, No. 12) ..	2s. 3d.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1924. Appendices to the Report (Colonial, No. 17)	1s.
TANGANYIKA, 1924 (Colonial, No. 11)	3s.
TOGOLAND, 1924 (Colonial, No. 14)	3s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15) ..

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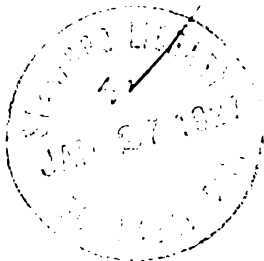
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1277.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

*(For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1181 and 1215
respectively, price 9d. each.)*



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1925.

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No. 1277.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

WITH FINANCIAL INFORMATION UP TO 31ST MARCH, 1925.

Geographical.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within $18^{\circ} 29' 5''$ to $15^{\circ} 53' 55''$ North latitude and $89^{\circ} 9' 22''$ to $88^{\circ} 10'$ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and the Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from the rapids of Gracias a Dios on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands called cayes off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The town of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between 1 and 4 miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about 4 ft. of water can approach the port. At the town of Stann Creek there is a

railway pier alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20ft. can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek District. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 ft. and 18 ft. respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 ft. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and, in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

Historical.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christain era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archæologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony, and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George," to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded, in perpetuity to Great Britain, by Treaty with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies,

or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date, the population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. Again in 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

Constitution.

7. The first settlers from 1638 to 1786 managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790–1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlements. From this latter date superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council contains five official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1899, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition referred to as "The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At present there are two unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, comprising the extreme south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed

by law, and is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the Local nominated District Boards.

Local Administration.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws 1924 there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

I.—General.

15. The Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave of absence on the 15th September, 1924, and was absent during the remaining portion of the year. During his absence the Government was administered by the Honourable C. D. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

16. In June, 1924, a reply was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the Report of the Commission appointed in 1923 to report on certain questions relating to the proposed change in the political constitution of the Colony. Two draft Bills prepared by this Government, one amending the existing Constitution, and the other regulating the procedure at elections of members of the Legislative Council, were approved, and His Excellency the Governor was instructed to place them before the Council for consideration. After allowing time for the expression of public opinion regarding the measure, the Council met on the 14th July, 1924, when the Bills, *inter alia*, were considered. The Unofficial Members of the Council were unwilling to adopt Clause 6 of the Bill amending the existing constitution, conferring on the Governor the power of putting into effect measures which he and the Secretary of State consider necessary in the interest of public order, public faith or other first essentials of good government, including the responsibility of the Colony as a component part of the Empire.

They were, however, prepared to approve the Clause provided that it was made inapplicable to any Bill or any resolution or vote dealing with the raising of taxes or duties or any financial measure whatsoever.

In view of the attitude of the majority of the Unofficial Members the further consideration of the Bills was deferred and the matter was referred back to the Secretary of State for his further instructions. At the end of the year under review no reply had been received.

17. During the year a concession to explore ancient monuments and mounds on certain Crown Lands, was granted to Lady Richmond Brown, Dr. T. Gann and Mr. F. A. Mitchell-Hedges. The party directed their attention to the Maya ruins near San Pedro de Columbia in the Toledo District which they named "Lubaantun," which, in Maya, means "the place of fallen stones." Although the existence of these ruins has been known for many years, and although they have been visited from time to time by European officials and others no exploration work was carried out prior to this. A number of artifacts, depicting the Maya civilization of the period, were discovered and these have been sent to the British Museum for classification. It is probable that a representative of that Institution will visit the Colony in the near future, in connection with the discoveries.

18. There was an improvement in trade during the year under review. Markets for mahogany and chicle were favourable, though the dry season and consequent difficulties of transport on the rivers adversely affected the output of the former product; the dry weather also interfered seriously with the tapping of sapodilla for "chicle," causing a material drop in domestic production. There has been, recently, a slight revival in the market for logwood.

19. The number of labourers engaged under time agreement was more by 480 than in 1923.

The distribution was as follows :—

District.	Mahogany.	Agriculture.	Other.	Total.
Toledo ...	169	24	—	193
Cayo ...	35	—	—	35
Belize ...	1633	98	97	1828
Corozal ...	38	159	2	199
Stann Creek	140	3	26	169
Orange Walk	78	31	—	109
Total ...	2093	315	125	2,533

20. It is greatly to be regretted that a general scheme for the formation of an Agricultural Department in the Colony to assist, educate and direct persons entering into the pursuit of agriculture, which had reached an advanced stage, had to be abandoned on account of the inability of General Revenue to meet the initial outlay and cost of maintenance of such a Department. Everything would seem to point to the necessity for such a Department

in the very near future, as there is little doubt that the Colony will have to depend to some extent in the future on its agricultural resources, which only await the advent of capital and the introduction into the Colony of agricultural labour until such time as her woodcutters (who, in that capacity, are second to none in the world) shall have turned their attention to agriculture. It is hoped, however, that during the coming year some commencement will be made in this direction. An Agricultural School is being established in the Stann Creek Valley, and in conjunction with that Institution it is proposed to foster and develop the promising agricultural possibilities of the Colony.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

21. No record is kept of the gains and losses to the Colony occasioned by immigration and emigration. Arrivals in, and departures from, appear more or less to counterbalance, and an estimate over a period of years supports this view.

Most of the emigration, however, has been to the neighbouring Central American Republics, by men in search of work, accompanied in many instances by their wives and families.

There has been no perceptible immigration into the Colony either from the West Indian Colonies or from the Central American Republics.

II.—Public Health, Vital Statistics and Climate.

22. The general health of the Colony, during the year under review, was, on the whole good.

23. During November, 1924, three cases of suspected Yellow Fever, one of which proved fatal, occurred at Stann Creek. The necessary measures were taken immediately to safeguard the capital and other districts and the area was placed under quarantine. At the request of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, the autopsy tissues of the fatal case were forwarded to them for examination. As a result of expert diagnosis the Board were of opinion that the evidence in this case did not seem to be conclusive either for or against Yellow Fever. There can be no doubt that the policy adopted of placing the Colony in quarantine, however detrimental it may have been to its interests, was the correct course. It should be possible with an efficient Medical Staff and competent Sanitary Department, with which the Colony is now equipped, to devise some scheme by which under careful observation suspected cases of Yellow Fever could be reported and placed under observation without taking the drastic steps usually adopted which have the result of seriously dislocating the business and trade of the Colony—perhaps quite unnecessarily. This question is under consideration and the Rockefeller Foundation is being consulted.

PREVALENT DISEASES.

24. *Enteric Fever*.—The occurrence of the Enteric Group of diseases in this Colony is very rare. Dr. Newham of the London School of Tropical Medicine, in his report on his visit to this Colony states that he saw a very suspicious case in a man who had lived in Belize for many years. The Belize Hospital returns show four cases and one death during 1924. It is probable that mild cases occur in the remote settlements.

25. *Dysentery*.—There were thirty-three deaths from Dysentery during the year. In the Belize Hospital sixteen cases of amœbic dysentery and ten cases of bacillary dysentery were treated. There was a good deal of dysentery of a bacillary type in the town of Belize during the months of September, October and November. House-flies were not prevalent in any part of the town during the period, and, in fact, house-flies are remarkably few in Belize at any time of the year. The rainfall was heavy at the time these cases were occurring and many parts of the town were swampy, and the roadside drains, where such exist, were constantly full of water.

26. *Malaria*.—Thirty deaths from Malaria were certified by Medical Practitioners in 1924. Among the uncertified deaths two hundred and eighty were ascribed to "fever" and there is little doubt that a large majority of these was due to malaria. There was an unusual amount of deaths from malaria, mostly among young children, in the Indian villages of San Antonio, San Pedro de Columbia and Aguacate in the Toledo District during the months of July, August and September.

The history of these cases in Toledo was very closely investigated by Dr. E. I. Vaughan of the Rockefeller Foundation who came to the Colony in connection with the outbreak of Yellow Fever in Stann Creek in November. His report endorsed the opinion of the Principal Medical Officer that these cases were undoubtedly malaria.

27. *Tuberculosis*.—Pulmonary Tuberculosis is prevalent. Other forms of tuberculosis are not common. Tuberculosis among cattle has never been accurately investigated, but it does not, it is believed, occur very frequently. Very little fresh milk is consumed in the Colony; in Belize tinned milk is universally used. Forty-eight cases of all forms of tuberculosis were treated in the Belize Hospital during the year, and of these twenty-two died. The vital statistics show thirty-nine deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, all certified by Medical Practitioners. Among the uncertified deaths at least fifty were due to this malady.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

28. *Anti-Mosquito* work continued throughout the year, although on a larger scale than hitherto. Within the boundaries of the towns possible breeding places of mosquitos are suitably

treated, the methods employed varying with the local conditions. Whenever possible, swamps were connected by channels to the river or one of the canals, in order to admit a species of small fish which is the natural enemy of the mosquito larvæ. This method is proving effective, and is economical, although unfortunately it cannot be adapted to all localities. Experiments with diluted solutions of Cresol were undertaken towards the end of the year with the intention of finding out comparative costs of this larvicide as compared with Crude Oil. The practice of using dry saw-dust soaked with a mixture of Crude and Kerosene Oil was introduced and has proved to be an economical method, as the oil diffuses slowly and is not so rapidly dissipated by heavy rain or by wind.

WATER SUPPLY.

29. In December, 1924, Mr. H. Howard Humphreys, Consulting Engineer to the Crown Agents for the Colonies on Water and Sanitary Works, visited the Colony to advise on the question of a water supply and a drainage scheme for the town of Belize.

Certain experiments were conducted and analyses of water, obtained in and around Belize, were carried out. His report, which should be received shortly, is awaited with interest.

VITAL STATISTICS.

30. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, was 47,132, as follows:—

Males ...	...	...	...	...	23,324
Females	...	...	...	...	23,808

31. The number of births registered during the year was 1,809 and the number of deaths 1,204.

32. The number of marriages registered in 1924 was 391, the rate being 8·30 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 7·73 for 1923. Of the 1,809 births, 868 were males and 941 were females. The birth-rate works out at 38·38 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against 37·91 per 1,000 during 1923.

33. Of the 1,204 deaths, 622 were males and 582 were females. This shows a total increase of 250 deaths as compared with the previous year. The 1,204 deaths correspond to a rate of 25·54 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 20·55 for the year 1923.

34. There was an increase in the number of infant deaths. The index of 133 out of each 1,000 births in 1923 increased to 156 in 1924. As compared with 1922 there was an improvement at the rate of 2·5 per cent.

35. The increase in 1922 was due directly or indirectly to the prevalence of whooping cough in the Colony in the earlier part of the year.

36. The principal causes of death during 1924, in order of degree, were from disease of the digestive system, followed by those of the respiratory system, and then by those classified under the circulatory system. There were 30 deaths from malaria, 33 from influenza, 39 from pulmonary tuberculosis and 42 from enteritis during the year.

CLIMATE.

37. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

38. The highest rainfall registered in 1924 was, as usual, at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 160·90 inches, and 205 days on which rain fell. The lowest rainfall was at Corozal in the Corozal District, which had a total of 30·40 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 59 inches.

39. The hottest days for the year 1924 were, the 23rd August, and 4th September, on which the thermometer registered 91·5°F. and the coldest day the 18th November, when it registered 57. The maximum wind velocity was 36 miles per hour on the following dates:—2nd January, 19th June, 22nd and 25th July, 13th and 15th August, 11th October, 7th and 30th November, 4th December. The maximum precipitation was on the 17th October, and was 2·23 inches in 24 consecutive hours.

III.—Financial.

REVENUE.

40. The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended on 31st March, 1925, amounted to \$938,969·43, being \$154,179·72 less than the revenue of the preceding year.

EXPENDITURE.

41. The expenditure for the financial year 1924-25 was estimated at \$942,151·00, but the amount actually spent was \$920,998·28, which shows a decrease of \$21,152·72 as compared with the Estimates for the year, and is less than the expenditure for the same period of the preceding year by \$282,221·59.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

42. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1925, were \$1,288,516·29, and the liabilities \$1,010,020·47, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of \$278,495·82. Assets consist mainly of advances to local bodies. The main liability is the amount due to the Crown Agents. The available cash balances total \$133,393·18, including a sum of \$100,000 available under Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

CURRENCY.

43. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for \$4·86 and \$2·43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces and bronze 1 cent pieces coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of tens, fives, twos and one dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1925, the value of currency notes in circulation was \$224,544, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of \$89,607 in gold, and \$134,937 in British and Colonial investments.

44. The interest on investments was \$7,753·53, and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

45. The estimated amount of coin in circulation at 31st March, 1925, was :—

Silver	...	...	...	...	\$190,159·75
Nickel	Bronze	...	...	...	5,499·90
Bronze	...	...	...	...	6,150·39

PUBLIC DEBT.

46. At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at \$745,734, as compared with \$1,132,094 in 1924-25. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of \$82,334·98 market value, as compared with \$71,702·82 in the previous year. Of the loan of \$1,000,000, authorised by Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws 1924 to meet the cost of certain public works and improvements, a sum of \$177,600 was raised bearing interest at 6 per cent., and a further sum of \$518,600 was advanced by the Crown Agents, bearing interest at current bank rate. A loan of \$250,000 has been authorised under authority of this Chapter for Forest development and improvement. This sum is controlled by the Forest Trust.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

47. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-Department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The bank had a sum of \$167,353·61 to the credit of 1,291 depositors on 31st March, 1925, against \$171,421·00 to the credit of 1,253 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1924, was \$150,000 and the interest on investments was \$6,360·41. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1924-25 was \$4,926·46.

V.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

18. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to \$7,232,025, \$1,547 less than the trade of the previous year. Imports decreased by \$142,407 while Exports increased by \$140,860. There has been no change with regard to the sources of supply or destination of the products. The United States of America, previously shown, controls the bulk of trade.

IMPORTS.

19. The total value of imports of merchandise during 1924 was \$3,894,281, which was less than the total imports in 1923 by \$2,407.

20. The following table shows the imports under the main heads of classification :—

	1923.	1924.
Food, drink and tobacco	\$1,674,287	\$1,451,149
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	755,913	647,939
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	1,598,659	1,775,651
Miscellaneous and un- classified ...	7,829	19,347
Bullion and Specie ...	—	195
	<hr/> \$4,036,688	<hr/> \$3,894,281

21. The following table shows whence imports are received :—

	Value.	Per- centage.
United States of America ...	\$1,935,198	49·6
United Kingdom ...	726,375	18·5
Mexico ...	373,874	9·6
Canada ...	430,248	11·4
Guatemala ...	154,587	3·9
Other British Possessions ...	68,600	1·8
Other Countries ...	205,399	5·2
	<hr/> \$3,894,281	<hr/> 100·0

22. The principal differences in the percentages in comparison with the previous year are as follows :—

United States of America, 49·6 as against 46·0 in 1923, United Kingdom, 18·5 as against 22·7, Canada 11·4 as against 8·86, Mexico 9·6 as against 12·1.

Trade with Canada continues to improve and has steadily increased since its inception in 1921. The value of the Imports in 1924 was \$430,248 as against \$357,788 in 1923, an increase

of \$72,460 or 20%. The totals in 1921 and 1922 were \$143,700 and \$156,750 respectively. This increase is more pronounced if the value of whisky imported is deducted. The total of this item was \$133,987 in 1923 and \$57,278, or \$76,707 less, in 1924.

The gradual increase in trade due to the subsidized steamers of the Canadian Mercantile Marine calling at Belize once every three weeks, has become an important factor in the trade of the Colony. It is hoped that this trade under preferential agreement will continue to increase.

EXPORTS.

53. The total value of exports of merchandise was \$3,337,744 as against \$3,196,884 in 1923, an increase of \$140,860.

The following table shows the exports under the main heads of classification :—

	1923.	1924.
Food, drink and tobacco	\$696,558	\$525,303
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,374,230	2,705,588
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	115,984	92,619
Miscellaneous and unclassified	3,707	2,261
Bullion and Specie ...	6,405	11,973
	<u>\$3,196,884</u>	<u>\$3,337,744</u>

54. Mahogany and chicle exports continue as heretofore to be the mainstay of the Colony. An increasing demand for mahogany created an active market resulting in competition due probably to exhaustion of war stocks between local contracting and purchasing companies. The increase in prices gave a distinct impetus to the export of mahogany. Due to internal trouble in Mexico, which involved a cessation of operations, the re-exports of mahogany (cut in Mexico and shipped from the Colony) were less by 1,030,247 superficial feet in quantity and \$123,815 in value than in 1923. The exports of British Honduras mahogany, however, more than covered this deficit being in excess of the totals for 1923 by 3,920,906 superficial feet in quantity and \$342,217 in value.

The exports of chicle bled in the Colony were 57,007 lb. less than the total for the previous year, but the re-exports of chicle bled in Guatemala and Mexico were 313,665 lb. more than in 1923. The total exports were 256,658 in quantity and \$160,558 in value in excess of the totals for 1923.

55. The following table shows the direction of exports during 1924 :—

	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Per-centage.</i>
United States of America ...	\$2,642,033	79·0
United Kingdom	259,345	7·6
Other British Possessions ...	200,829	6·0
Other Countries	235,537	7·4
	<hr/> \$3,337,744	100·0

56. The value of exports to Canada during 1924 totalled \$16,864, as against \$18,339 in 1923.

FORESTRY.

57. The Forestry Department is making steady progress towards the establishment of a sound forest policy, and the reafforestation of Crown and private lands is proceeding satisfactorily. Much of the large area of scrub-land in this Colony is the result of the wasteful deforestation by fire which has been going on for centuries.

AGRICULTURE.

58. Agricultural land is easily obtainable either from the Crown at from \$2·00 to \$4·00 an acre, or from private owners at about \$5·00 to \$6·00 an acre. The cost of survey is about \$1·50 an acre. The land tax is very light, being only 1½ cents an acre, except near the Stann Creek Railway, where the tax is 10 cents an acre. All tropical produce grows in abundance. For the capitalist who thinks of agricultural investments no soil in the world is more suitable. There is also excellent pasturage for cattle-raising. The Great Southern Pine Ridge alone is capable of supporting thousands of head of cattle.

Panama disease still, unfortunately, continues to reduce the export of bananas from the Stann Creek Valley, but indications are not wanting that bananas grown on limestone formation are not subject to this disease, due it is thought to this soil being inhospitable to its germs.

INDUSTRY.

59. There are no finer sugar lands in the West Indies than those in the northern and southern portions of the Colony. Sugar is manufactured in these Districts, but only for local consumption. Modern machinery and scientific cultivation are only required to establish a promising sugar industry. The output was about 3,500 barrels in the Corozal District, 414 barrels in the Orange Walk, and about 3,000 barrels in Toledo. Rum is made as a by-product of the sugar industry, the quantity made during the year being about 47,000 proof gallons.

FISHING.

60. There was no development during the year of the sponge industry. The principal varieties found in the Colony are :—cotton grass, glove, common grass, wool and soft velvet. The first is found on the shoals and in the neighbourhood of the northern cayes in a fathom of water, and is very plentiful. The glove variety grows to a large size, usually about 2 feet in diameter. The soft velvet and wool are of special interest. Mr. Crawshaw, the Research Officer, investigating the sponge fishery in the British West Indies, has reported concerning specimens of the above that on examination they proved to be similar to the superior grades occurring in the Bahamas.

61. The sea around the cayes teems with excellent eating fish, the best known being snapper, grooper, kingfish, Spanish mackerel. Turtle, both logger-head and hawk's bill, are captured, the latter mainly for the sake of the shell, a fair amount of which is exported. Green turtle are fairly plentiful and are in great request as food. Tarpon fishing is indulged in as a sport.

V.—Progress in the Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

62. In November, 1921, an extremely useful and interesting report on the forests of the Colony, with suggestions for a far-reaching forest policy, was made by Mr. C. Hummel. As an outcome of this report, a Forest Department was established in April, 1922, when Mr. Hummel was appointed Conservator of Forests. A Forest Trust was established under Chapter 70 of the Consolidated Laws 1924, the object being the development and maintenance of the Crown forests of the Colony, and to advise and assist private owners of forest lands in the development and improvement of their property. The Trust controls the administration of funds and a Loan of \$250,000 for forestry development. The Forestry Department consists of a Conservator of Forests and five Assistant Conservators, with Forest Rangers and clerical staff. The proposal is that the expenditure from Loan funds should be extended over a period of thirty years, the cost of the Department being, to a large extent, borne by contributions from General Revenue based on forest revenue.

The Silk Grass or " Arghan fibre " plant grows plentifully in certain localities of the Colony. As undergrowth, it produces no deleterious effects upon the overwood and can be preserved readily in the Crown forests. Though growing wild all over the Colony, it is not everywhere that silk grass is found in quantities sufficient for economic exploitation. Frequently it is found in patches and strips near rivers, and with some simple silvicultural aid, and artificial interplanting between natural groups, extensive silk grass areas could be fully stocked at a low

cost. A study of the natural reproduction and rate of growth of this plant is being made at the Botanic Station, Belize. So far, however, experiments in devising suitable machinery for treating this valuable fibre have not met with success, but remunerative results await anyone who can overcome this difficulty.

As indicated above, the market for mahogany continues to improve, resulting in an increased output. Adverse weather conditions reduced the output of chicle. The bleeding of wild chicle is declining owing to exhaustion of the forests consequent upon destructive methods of tapping. A promising commencement, however, has been made under the direction of the Forestry Department in the reafforestation of sapodilla forests. It is hoped under such scientific methods to produce plantation chicle. The industry gives promise of being of considerable value to the Colony.

A saw-mill, with an annual capacity of five million feet, is producing pine lumber, for which there is a steady market, and possible markets in the neighbouring West Indian islands and Central American republics.

Experiments in making veneers from some of the secondary timbers found in considerable quantities in the forests of the Colony, are promising, and indications are not wanting that a steady and increasing demand for these timbers will develop.

These timbers include sapodilla, pine, santa maria, yemery, nargusta, balsa wood, Honduras walnut. A piece of sapodilla taken from an old Maya Indian Temple over 1,200 years old, and a sapodilla post from the old Belize Bridge, illustrate strikingly the durability of this wood. Full information concerning the woods of the Colony is contained in a report by the late Conservator of Forests, Mr. C. Hummel, and may be obtained from the Conservator of Forests, Belize, or the Colonial Secretary.

63. Citrus Fruit grows luxuriantly in many parts of the Colony.

64. A useful and interesting Geography of the Colony of British Honduras, by Mr. A. B. Dillon, Inspector of Schools, was published in 1923. It is primarily intended for use in the elementary schools, and supersedes a previous geography, published in 1891 by the then Inspector of Schools.

VI.—Banks and Banking Facilities.

65. The Royal Bank of Canada maintains a branch in Belize. It is the only banking institution in the Colony. It is not allowed to circulate its own notes. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. The details of the operation of the Government Savings Bank have been reported under Head II.—Financial.

VII.—Education.

66. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational Church schools, which has proved so far to be best suited to the needs of the Colony. Rules made by the Board of Education were amended in 1923 effecting a change in the method of making grants-in-aid to denominational schools.

The Compulsory Attendance Law of 1915 has not yet for various reasons been applied to all parts of the Colony. The maximum age limit for attendance under the compulsory attendance law is twelve years; but there are now three areas in which it has been raised to fourteen years, the towns of Belize, Orange Walk and the village of San Estevan; the two latter places are on the New River. Grants-in-aid from General Revenue are based on the monthly average attendances of children between the ages of five and sixteen years. Grants-in-aid of the salary of teachers are also made.

67. The total grants-in-aid in 1924 amounted to \$58,190.56 which included special increases to teachers' salaries, grants to pupil-teachers, needlework, agriculture, building and furniture. In most of the schools in the Colony a small fee is charged; but payment is not compulsory, and the receipts are small. The amount collected in the year under review was \$1,718. The number of aided schools in operation in 1924 was 66 as against 65 in 1923. In Belize District there are 22, in Corozal District 12, in Orange Walk District 8, in Cayo District 6, in Stann Creek District 8, and in Toledo 10.

68. The total number of pupils on the rolls in aided schools was 6,827; of these 3,532 were boys and 3,275 girls, and the average daily attendance was 5,250, of which 2,758 were boys and 2,492 girls.

69. During the year there were employed 120 certificated teachers and 50 pupil-teachers. The former are obtained from the pupil-teachers' class, a method which, in the absence of any provision for normal training, is far from satisfactory. There were also unfortunately a number of teachers without certificates.

70. There are a few private elementary schools in the Colony, which are unaided. These have a total of about 500 pupils on the rolls with an average attendance of about 350.

The competitive exhibition of school work, which was first held in 1892, and continued annually till 1897, when it was abandoned for want of funds, was reinstituted during the year. It established the educational value of such competitions.

SECONDARY.

71. Secondary education continued to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. The schools are unaided by the Government except to the extent of a few

hundred dollars paid as bonus on passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations. The amount paid for the year 1924 was \$735. These schools have a total roll of about 476, and the average attendance is 425, but only about one half of these receive secondary education. In December, 35 pupils were presented for the Cambridge Examinations, 19 for the Preliminary, 14 for the Junior, and 2 for the School Certificate. The successes were as follows:—15 pupils passed the Preliminary and 3 the Junior Examination. The ordinary rate of fees in these schools is \$3.00 a month. The total number on roll for schools of all classes is 7,803, and the average attendance is 6,025. This shows that about three-fourths of the children of school age are under instruction.

72. The expenditure for the year was \$70,747.81, which shows an increase over 1923 of \$13,118.47. There were expenses incurred by the churches in the erection of new school buildings in 1924, approximately a sum of \$5,233. Based on the daily average of attendances the cost per head worked out at \$12.71; of which sum \$12.33 was borne by General Revenue.

TECHNICAL.

73. There is little technical education or vocational training undertaken in the Colony. Needlework, however, forms part of the curriculum in the girls' schools. The establishment of an Agricultural School for boys will fill a long-felt want.

VIII.—Legislation.

74. During the year 1924, fifteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest:—

Ordinance No. 1 of 1924.—An Ordinance to prevent the wholesale and indiscriminate slaughter of Crawfish (*Palinurus Americanus*).

These are being canned locally, and without protection the supply might be seriously endangered.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1924.—An Ordinance to provide for the issue, by the Governor in Council, of permits to explore ancient ruins and monuments or mounds on Crown lands, and to search for and remove any relics found thereon.

IX.—Communications.

75. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by

motor vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

76. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward bound only) by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a service between Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda, Bahamas and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about 15 days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders & Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

77. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

ROADS.

78. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony road construction is difficult and expensive.

X.—Public Works.

79. The reconstruction of the Court House building was undertaken during the year. The building should be completed early in 1925 at a cost of \$61,866.08.

New Customs offices at Fort George were also built during the year. These offices were erected at a cost of \$8,130.49.

80. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost \$18,300.

The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled \$38,159.

During the year the expenditure from loan funds on public works totalled \$135,432.

XI.—Shipping.

81. The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Colony during the year 1924 was as follows :—

	<i>British.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Steamships ...	152	229	381
Sailing vessels	117	194	311
	<hr/> 269	<hr/> 423	<hr/> 692

82. The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 18,900, and of the steamships 286,450.

83. Belize is a port of registry. Four sailing vessels and seven motor boats were registered during the year. The total tonnage of these amounted to 173.

XII.—Postal, Telegraph & Telephone Services.**POST OFFICE.**

84. At the end of the year there were 25 Post Offices established in the Colony.

There has been an appreciable increase in the parcel post C.O.D. business with Great Britain. An agreement was concluded in the month of September with the General Post Office, London, whereby parcels from Great Britain are forwarded via Jamaica by ships of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, and are received here once every three weeks. This is a great improvement over the former service which was approximately once in six weeks.

85. Mails to and from the Colony were carried almost entirely by the steamers of the United Fruit Company, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, and the Harrison Line. A weekly service, not under contract, is maintained by the United Fruit Company's vessels between the Colony and the ports of New Orleans and Mobile alternately. This Company also maintains a monthly service from New York and communication with the Central American republics.

The total number of postal articles dealt with in the internal mails during the year was 176,888, while the estimated number dealt with in the foreign mails was 549,092. As compared with 1923, the most striking feature is the growth of the parcels business with the United States of America. The reduction in cost effected by the British Preferential Tariff has not proved a sufficient offset against the advantages of proximity and regularity of transport possessed by the United States.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

86. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are 925 miles of lines with 32 offices.

There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 335 subscribers.

RADIO TELEGRAPHS.

87. During the year 1922 extensive additions and improvements were made in the Radio Telegraph Station at Belize. The installation in use at the Radio Telegraph Station, Belize, is a 5 k.w. (Wireless Speciality Apparatus) 500 cycle quenched spark. The normal wave length of the station is 1,500 metres. A small aerial was, however, erected during 1922 to allow transmission on the 600 metre wave. In addition, a 25 k.w. Admiralty set was installed, which, although for the special purpose of direct traffic with Jamaica, is not at present in use owing to the closing down of the Admiralty station in that Colony.

An "urgent" and a "deferred" service of wireless messages for abroad was inaugurated with effect from 1st January, 1924.

With effect from 1st September, 1923, a daily service for communicating with ships was inaugurated at the Belize Wireless Station. The schedule is as follows:—

7.30 a.m.	to	8.30 a.m.	local time.
12.00 noon	,,	1.00 p.m.	,,
7.00 p.m.	,,	8.00 p.m.	,,

XIII.—Official Publications.

88. A handbook was prepared by Messrs. M. S. Metzgen and H. E. C. Cain, and was published by the West India Committee.

89. There is an Annual Report on Trade by the Collector of Customs, and an official Gazette printed and published weekly by the Government printing office.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Colonial Secretary.

23rd September, 1925.

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